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26 April 2017

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**Harry takes 3rd place**



# ANZAC DAY

# 2017



*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We shall remember them"*

## New Gp Surgery in Branxton...



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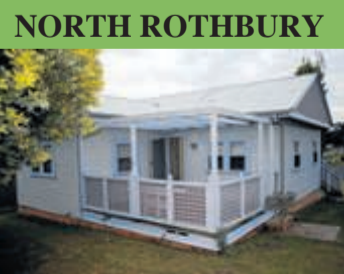
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all details page 12



# ANZAC DAY

# 2017

## Dawn Service ~ Branxton



■ (L-R) Ex Servicemen Brett Wild, Lester Bootes, Cmd Neill Bell MCDO RAN (Retired) & Branxton RSL Sub Branch President Brian Furner OAM at the Branxton Dawn Service

An estimated 700 people attended the Branxton ANZAC Day Dawn Service. Branxton RSL Sub-Branch President Brian Furner OAM said it was just amazing to see hundreds attending the Branxton Service, in even greater numbers than ever. "Record large sections of the community got involved despite a reduction in the number of veterans remaining," said Brian. "This is the largest attendance to our Dawn Service & it is getting larger each year," said Brian.



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The Australian Bee Gees Show  
19 May 2017

The Saturday Night Fever 40th Anniversary tour



The Australian Bee Gees Show are digging out their flares and dusting off their platform shoes in preparation for the Australian leg of their 2017 world tour - so let the party begin!

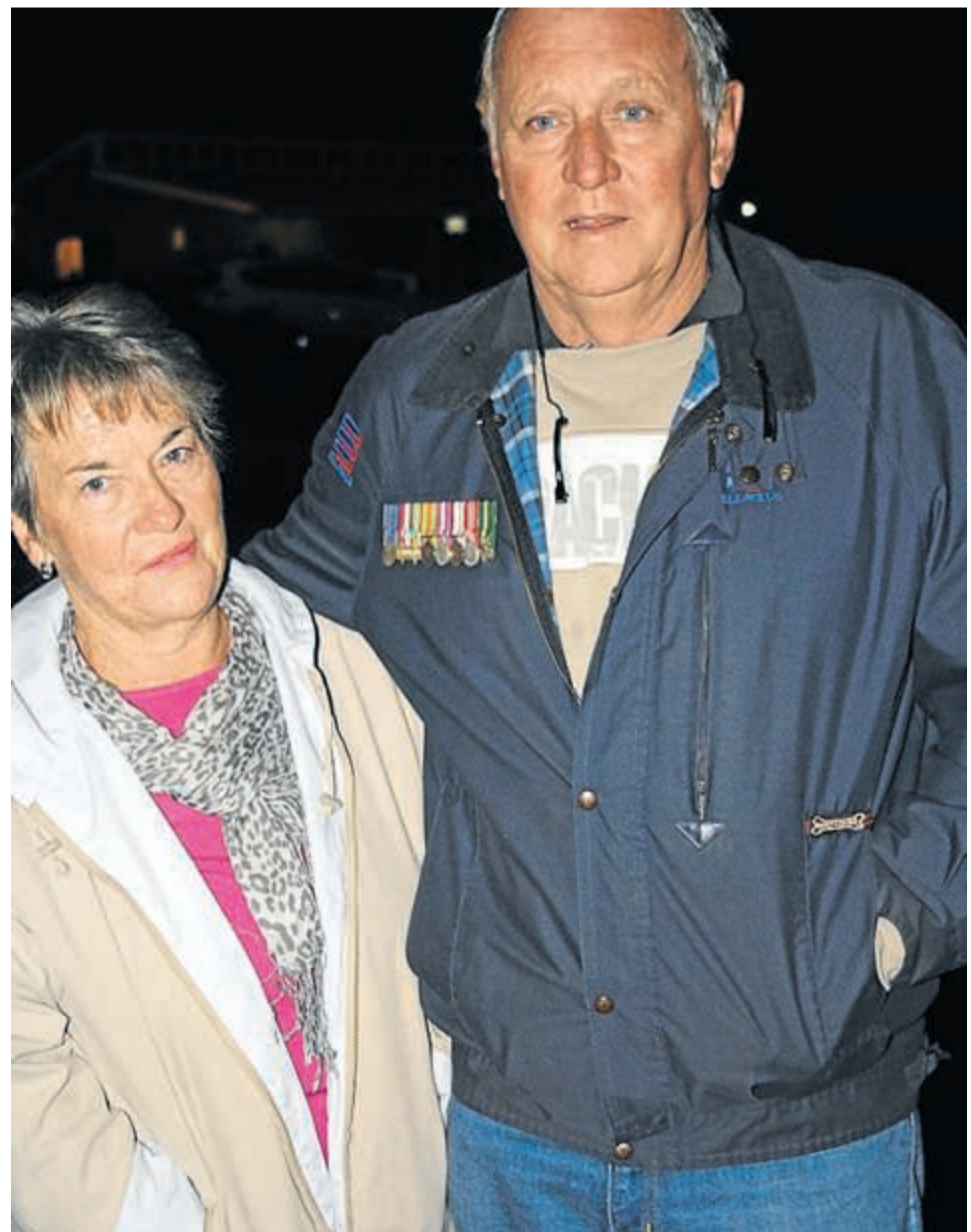


Photo: At Branxton ANZAC Day Dawn Service Dianne & Peter Macfarlane of Branxton.



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## Military Clearance/Garage Sale

13 – 14 May 2017

169 Springvale Road Elderslie (Branxton) NSW 2335

0488 255 666

We are hold a fixed price garage sale for an entire collection of over 2000

**Military collectable's and current military surplus items, the sale will include but not limited to:**

An exceptionally large collection of WW2 Gas Masks of all types including: Nazi, British, Australian, American and many European Countries,

Military Uniforms (Army, Navy and Airforce) used and some never issued, WW2, Korean War, Vietnam including current surplus.

WW2 Woollen Jackets, Battle Dress Jackets and Trousers, Service Dress, Boots, shirts, trousers, wet weather gear and some other foreign countries.

Hats, berets and some helmets. New WW2 Navy, Army socks and elbow pads, field jacket liners. Buttons, badges and many sundry items too many to list.

Personal Field equipment new and used all eras and wars, including large quantity of Pat 37, right through to current surplus, belts, packs, webbing straps and sets, DPCU pouches, blankets, sleeping bags, tools.

Weapon cleaning kits – Bren Gun, Owen Gun and SLR. Signaller Pouches, vehicle collapsible stretchers (Austin). Water bottle carriers, water bottles, bum packs, pliers and wire cutters.

Equipment such as timber and plastic boxes, tripods, radio's both Army and Navy, antennas, and various military electrical equipment including WW2 Tank and Bren Gun Commanders headsets (some new), mapping (plotting equipment), books, training manuals.

Other collectables such as di cast trucks and cars, videos and DVDs

Landrover series 3 Short wheel base, no gearbox – IF NOT SOLD BEFORE

No 4 Australian Army 1/2 TN Trailer with Cover – IF NOT SOLD BEFORE

Landrover used parts, bonnets rims etc

The entire collection is to be cleared out, many years of collecting and buying has come to an end, this is an opportunity to buy a piece of Military history, or perfect for re-enactors.

Over 90% of the items are all genuine and not REPRODUCTIONS.

Very small quantity of reproduction gear will be sold separately, and not mixed in with genuine equipment and uniforms.

No prior sales, all reasonable offers on the day will be considered. No bags allowed in the building on the day.

**Cash, EFTPOS, Debit and Credit Card – available on the day ONLY WITH Driver's license. NO AMEX or Diners**

## Branxton officially now a 'RV Friendly Town'



Branxton has officially earned the title of a 'RV Friendly Town' with the opening of the RV Park at Branxton Oval.

The new facility was a joint effort by Cessnock City Council & the Branxton Greta Business Chamber with about \$60,000 spent to bring the facility to the correct standard.

An RV Friendly Town™ is one that has met a set of guidelines to ensure they provide a certain amount of amenities, and a certain level of services for these travellers. When RV tourists enter a town displaying the RV Friendly Town™ sign, they know they will be welcome, certain services will be provided for them that may not be available in other centres, and they will have access to a safe place to stay overnight, and possibly for a longer period.

The essential criteria is:-

- Provision of appropriate parking within the town centre, with access to a general shopping area for groceries and fresh produce.
- Provision of short term, low cost overnight parking (24/48 hours) for self-contained recreational vehicles, as close as possible to the CBD.
- Access to potable water.
- Access to a free dump point at an appropriate location.



Two RV campers using the new facility last Sunday



Above & below: All facilities are up to the standard required



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# What's Happening & other matters

with **Mike Lowing**

Over the last couple of weeks my attention has been taken up with the new President of the USA & his current adversary in North Korea. I'm old enough to remember the Cuban 'missile crisis' & it was touch & go as to the eventual outcome; both countries played a very dangerous game & Donald Trump is playing a very dangerous game again; nuclear chicken with a man-baby who has nothing to lose. What makes the current moment particularly worrisome is that the leaders of both countries can be described almost identically: rampant narcissists and ultranationalists with bad

haircuts who love to play with military toys. Not having diplomats in place, and giving the generals an extra-long leash, is an almost perfect formula for blundering into a war.

The sooner both are dispatched the better off for humanity. I said that it would take 6-months from election day for Trump to be impeached; got it wrong. I'll now go for 9-months & hope I am correct!.

The Hunter Business Chamber has welcomed the address from Deputy Nationals Leader Fiona Nash at the National Press Club in Canberra last week, discussing relocation of government agencies to regional areas. The Hunter Business Chamber & our local Branxton Greta Business Chamber supports the notion that key regional centres can provide attractive and viable options for the relocation of some government

departments. The CEO of the Hunter Business Chamber said that they welcome a policy that provides a framework to create appropriate and sensible efficiencies & that the Hunter is well placed to accommodate further growth from both private and public agencies as the region is home to excellent amenity, support structures and a proven track record. Regionally based agencies have the ability to contribute significantly to regional and economic performance. With a great majority of families unable to enter the housing market in the major centres local housing affordability should be enough, on its own, to entice the move. Good initiative by the chamber.

Singleton Council General Manager Jason Linnane is encouraging people who haven't yet made a submission on the draft Singleton Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 and would like to make comments to do so before this Friday 28 April 2017. The draft plan is among a



**Late news**  
\* Man Baby threatens to Nuke Australia

suite of documents including the Council's draft Delivery and Operational plans currently on public exhibition that once adopted, will guide the future of Singleton for the next 10 years and drive Council's priorities for the next four years. The documents show more than \$100 million will be injected into the

maintenance and improvement of community assets over the next four years, and outline Council's commitment to lobby all levels of government on issues such as progress on the Singleton Bypass and improvements to the New England Highway. A community information drop-in session was held on Wednesday 12 April 2017

as part of the public exhibition period, but Mr Linnane said there was still time for people to take a look at the documents and make a submission. He said that council was thrilled with the response they initially received in the development of the document last year, with 2,000 people responding to surveys, social media posts and

attending workshops. He also said that it's been great to see that level of interest continue during the public exhibition of the draft document, and he thanked those people who attended the community drop-in session last week for their interest and involvement. They'll be reviewing any feedback and finalising the plan to be presented to a future meeting of Council for adoption in the coming months.  
*Cheers, Mike*



Testers Hollow claims by Federal Labor

Despite what you might hear from some circles, the commitment of funds for raising the road at Testers Hollow has been a result of representations made by One Nation to the appropriate government Minister. On 7 April 2017 I announced that I would be following up on this matter with the Minister and on 13 April 2017 the funding of \$15million was announced. There is a direct correlation between the two which cannot be denied, regardless of what Federal Labor claims. If the ALP were serious about road issues in NSW

they would be addressing the issue of road markers for flood levels, but they seem to be silent on this very important aspect of road safety, rather choosing to make claims as a result of someone else's efforts. *Senator Brian Burston One Nation Senator for NSW*

Energy crisis forum I will participate in a discussion about Australia's Energy Crisis at a forum hosted by the Newcastle Branch of the Australian Institute of Energy. The forum will be held at the Fort Scratchley Function Centre in Newcastle on Thursday, 4 May 2017.

The event will address the future of Australia's energy markets and will include guest speakers Jim Snow, Executive Director of Oakley Greenwood and Adjunct Professor UQ, as well as Alister Alford, formerly Acting General Manager of Marketing for Delta Electricity. A panel discussion with both speakers and a range of energy industry experts will take place. I and Weston Energy CEO Garbis Simonian will also be on the panel. Resolving the energy crisis we should never have had will require sound policy and cooperation across all levels of government. Amongst the solution must be the defeat of those who take an ideological approach to the exploitation of our gas resources. All three levels of government have a role to play in making sure gas plays a role in

our transition to renewables and in the creation and maintenance of jobs in our region. I congratulate the AIE for stimulating this important debate. *Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Australia, Spokesperson for country caucus & Member for Hunter*  
Value Test Fail! I am confused. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull says we are "the most successful multicultural nation in the world". So why do we need to restrict our migration processes again? Turnbull says our nation is not based on a notion of "ethnicity, religion or culture". So are we no longer confident of

our democracy's capacity to integrate those who come here? The Opposition Leader, Bill Shorten's response to the Government's plans to make migration and citizenship tests tougher is equally perplexing. "I think it is reasonable to look for English-language proficiency, and I think that it's reasonable to have some period of time, waiting time, before you become an Australian citizen," Shorten said. This is a man who represents Maribyrnong in inner-west Melbourne, one of the most ethnically diverse areas in Australia. English speakers did not build the diverse businesses, temples and churches of Little Saigon and Little Addis Ababa in Footscray. Nor did English

speakers build the businesses, temples and churches of the post-war Italians or of the Latin Americans who arrived in that area in the 1970s. Our multiculturalism has been successful, because of our non-discriminatory immigration, not in spite of it. *Fotis Kapetopoulos, Melbourne*  
The government's "lack of respect" for others I am overwhelmed by the hypocrisy of asking would-be citizens to agree to our "values" – emphasising "respect for others" – when our federal government pursues an approach of prolonged torture and lack of adherence to basic human rights towards those who are detained on Manus Island, Nauru and the mainland. I also have a genuine

confusion as to what the government means precisely by these "values". I suspect I would fail such a citizenship test miserably because I believe that what I value and wish our political leaders to value are fundamentally different, and not just in emphasis. For example, do these values include fighting poverty, climate change, inequality, and striving for social justice, to name but a few?  
*Name & address withheld at writers request*

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**4938 1773**

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<b>Dial 000</b>		
FOR FIRE, POLICE AND AMBULANCE ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT FOR 24-HOUR SERVICE. It's a free call. Just tell the operator what you need-fire, police or ambulance. Then wait to be connected. When reporting an emergency by calling 000, the telephone number & address you are calling from may be given to the emergency service so they can respond quickly. If you don't want the telephone number or address details passed on, you must call the emergency service direct. ALL CALLS TO 000 ARE VOICE RECORDED		
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Police Assistance Line (PAL).....		131 444
<b>Police</b>		
Branxton.....	4938 1244	
Lochinvar.....	4930 7209	
<b>Ambulance.....</b>	131 233	
<b>NSW Fire Brigade</b>		
Branxton.....	4938 3396	
<b>Rural Fire Brigades</b>		
Belford.....	6574 7149	
Broke.....	6579 1491	
Greta.....	4015 0000	
Bishops Bdg	4015 0000	
Nth R'bury....	4015 0000	
Rothbury.....	4015 0000	
Pokolbin.....	4015 0000	
Rothbury.....	4991 1733	
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Rothbury.....	4991 1733	
Scotts		
Flat.....	6574 5186	
Central		
(Cessnock)...	4015 0000	
<b>Electricity</b>		
Energy		
Australia.....	131 388	
<b>Hospitals</b>		
Maitland....	4939 2000	
Cessnock....	4991 0555	
Singleton....	6572 2799	
<b>SES</b>	132 500	
<b>Crime Stoppers</b>		
	1800 333 000	
<b>Poisons Info</b>	131 126	
<b>Hunter Water</b>		
	1300 657 000	
Ausgrid .....	131 388	
Gas Emergencies ..	131 909	
Lifeline.....	131 114	
<b>Mental Health Line</b>		
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<b>Domestic Violence Support</b>		
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<b>Centrelink Self Service</b>		
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## Do you own Cessnock's cutest cat or dog?

Cessnock City Council is on the search for the Cessnock Local Government Area's (LGA) cutest cat or dog and is asking residents to share their best snaps with the community. The Cutest Pet Competition kicks off on Friday 21 April, on the @CessnockCityCouncil Facebook page, with a great prize pack up for grabs. If you think your dog or cat has what it takes here is how to enter: Like the Cessnock City Council page. Send the image of your pet to Cessnock City

Council via a Facebook message. Provide Council with the name of your pet. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent said he looks forward to showing off his mate Krusher. "Krusher typically wouldn't be described as cute but he sure is a great mate and can often be found getting up to mischief on the property", Cr Pynsent said. On the Friday of each week the entries will be posted in a Facebook album. The community will be asked to

vote for the cutest pet by liking the image. Entries to the competition close on 5pm Friday 12 May and ten finalists will be contacted. All pets entered into the competition must be microchipped and registered in the Cessnock LGA. Owners will be asked to provide details to confirm registration and microchipping by Wednesday 17 May. Voting will reopen on Friday 19 May for the top ten and the community will decide which pet takes out the title. Council will officially crown the

Cessnock's Cutest Pet on Friday 2 June and will reward your furry friend with a prize pack. To enter visit <https://www.facebook.com/CessnockCityCouncil/>. Residents who would like to enter but need to microchip their pet should keep an eye out for details on Cessnock City Council's FREE microchipping event being held next month. For details on how to register your pet visit <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/animals/animalregistration>. Note: only cats and dogs are eligible to enter into the competition.




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## Councillors stand united, roads are a priority!



Cessnock City Council is calling on the NSW Government to make roads a priority and address their concerns over the condition of a number of state roads in the local government area. Councillors voted unanimously to support a motion to seek support from various NSW Government officials in a bid to work towards a solution for Cessnock's ageing state road network. Cessnock City Mayor, Councillor Bob Pynsent stated the united stance of Councillors reflects the current frustration levels in the community. "We have been working hard to secure safety upgrades with the Roads and Maritime Service, consistently raising our concerns, however this has

resulted in little action". "The safety of our road users is paramount prompting the decision to pursue new avenues to gain the support of the NSW Government and secure much needed funding to enable these vital works to take place", Cr Pynsent said. Cessnock City Council will seek an urgent meeting with the NSW Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, the NSW Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter and the State Member for Cessnock. Roads issues highlighted as a priority include but are not limited to: Wine Country Drive, Nulkaba re intersection work. Wine Country Drive, Nulkaba maintenance works and access to the

Cessnock Correctional Centre. Main Road, Heddon Greta – various intersection issues and pedestrian issues. Commuter parking adjacent to HEX interchanges.

Hart Road, Frame Drive, Orange Street, Cessnock Road connection to the HEX. Government Road status. Wollombi Road.




Australia's Biggest Morning Tea  
Hosted by Branxton CWA  
Friday \*16th May 2016 \* 10.00am  
**BRANXTON COMMUNITY HALL**  
Entry fee is \$10pp  
May is the month that Australia hosts "BIGGEST MORNING TEA", a fundraiser for the Cancer Council. Australia's top cancer researchers depend on the Cancer Council for financial support to continue building a cancer-free future for us.  
So, join us for a delicious Morning Tea by the ladies of Branxton Greta CWA, with raffles and lucky door prizes, and other surprises available, also a guest speaker, while chatting and catching up with friends.  
Enquires - Marie 0402015850 or [branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com](mailto:branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com)  
RSVP:- 9th May 2016, essential for catering



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Bob Pynsent, Mayor Cessnock City Council

## FROM THE MAYORS DESK

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe break over the Easter period. As ANZAC day approaches it is a reminder for us to pay respect to all of those who have sacrificed their lives for this wonderful nation but also for us to reflect on how lucky we are to call Australia home. ANZAC Day certainly is one of Australia's most important national occasions and I look forward to seeing many of you at commemoration services next week.

In the lead up to ANZAC day the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Library are hosting the ANZAC Brought to Life exhibition. This is a unique opportunity to view authentic equipment and hear stories of war. To find out more visit <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/news/ANZACbroughttolife>.

Wow, what an absolutely fantastic Youth Week 2017 was, with the program once again offering a huge range of events for our young people to enjoy. I was lucky enough to attend many of the more than 30 events coordinated for young people aged between 12-25.

It was a pleasure to be on the judging panel for the My School Rules cooking competition, which saw Cessnock High School and Mount View High School students cook up a storm. Not only was I impressed by their culinary skills but also their ability to work together as a team. Well done to all the students involved.

Our Youth Week program is made possible through the collaboration of many community organisations. Thank you to each of these groups and for demonstrating your ongoing commitment to Youth Week.

Congratulations to the Cessnock Pistol Club for hosting the Australian Championships over Easter which is a qualifying event for next year's Commonwealth games. Shooters from all over Australia competed, including some of our local talent. The event certainly was made that much more special with Cessnock's Dan Repacholi participating.

Noel Sugui has been awarded a Paul Harris Award, at the last Cessnock Wine Country Rotary meeting. Mr Sugui received the highest honour in Rotary membership for his contribution to our community. On behalf of the community I thank Noel and all the members for helping our local government area, especially as they turn their focus to fundraising for the Children's Medical Research Foundation.

Community organisations involved in arts and cultural activities are encouraged to apply for the 2017 Community Cultural Development Dollar for Dollar Grants Program which are officially open. Applications are due on 8 May 2017, forms and grant guidelines are available from Council's Customer Service Counter, Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries and our website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/dollarfordollar](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/dollarfordollar).

Cheers, Bob



Member for Cessnock Clayton Barr MP

## Raising the BARR

### IS FREE CHOICE THE ANSWER OR DOES GOVERNMENT HAVE A ROLE?

How are you going with your negotiations on power supply and the rates charged? What about your provider of home insurance – how do they compare with others? And if the NDIS is currently something that you are wrestling with, are you feeling empowered or overwhelmed, or maybe both? And is there anyone out there who could explain to me the difference between one private health insurance provider, and another? The ability for us as consumer to have choice is often called a “democratic right” by many and a “liberty” or “freedom” by others. But the flip side of this choice is the challenge of being able to make good, well informed choices. To make the best possible choices you need to become something of an expert in reading complicated documents, understanding in great detail the issue of finance and having clear and specific goals about your own personal needs. And even then, you can never be quite sure if you have asked all of the right questions, found all of the right details and been provided with all of the right information. Good luck.

In recent years we have seen the most atrocious scams being rolled out to fool people into signing up for “training courses” to get a qualification, only to find themselves in debt with no training and no qualification. We are already seeing equally concerning signs on the NDIS front – with some particular dodgy companies taking a big slice of the funding meant for some of our disabled people. In some of the recent floods across the country we have seen some of the insurance companies refusing to pay out, because of the fine print. I firmly believe that Government have an incredibly important role to play to set minimum standards. I have no problem with the private sector doing better than the Government, and in some cases they do, but in too many instances we have allowed the privateers to do worse, at the taxpayer's expense.

\*\*\*\*\*  
My office can be contacted by phoning 4991-1466, by email to [cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au) or call into 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock 2325. You also follow me on my Facebook page “[www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp](http://www.facebook.com/claytonbarrmp)”, go to Twitter and search @claytonbarrmp or check out my website at [www.claytonbarr.com.au](http://www.claytonbarr.com.au) Cheers Clayton

**'Members say' ..... is proudly sponsored by...**

**The Branxton Greta Vineyards News**

**4938 1773**



Sue Moore, Mayor Singleton Council

If you've never thought about crocheting before, I encourage you to do so this weekend.

With the countdown on to this year's biennial Singleton Festival, organisers are hooking in with an event to put Singleton on a different kind of map – and in the Guinness Book of World Records – with an attempt at the record for the “Most People Crocheting Simultaneously” on Sunday 30 April at Singleton Civic Centre.

It might be a far cry from the coal-dusted image of Singleton most people from outside our local government area have, but what the Singleton Festival shows is that Singleton is also an important cultural centre of food, wine, music and art. The development of the draft Singleton Community Strategic Plan (CSP) reinforced the importance of arts and culture to you, our residents. Indeed, a call for an art gallery for Singleton was one of the most significant outcomes from last year's community consultation.

But the Singleton Festival is far more than a platform for artisans and maestros, and a lure for creative types to flock to our part of the world seeking inspiration.

The festival offers a richness of new experiences for locals to discover what lies in our own backyards, and learn about the history, the culture and the beauty right here in Branxton. The Artisans Open Day, to be held just next door in Elderslie on Saturday 6 May, is a case in point.

Visitors can travel back in time to witness the traditional craft of blacksmithing, reforged in a contemporary setting as award-winning Artist Blacksmith Will Maguire opens up his workshop.

He and his blacksmith colleagues will join their considerable talents to create a sculptural monument that is relevant to us today – even though their skills stem from a bygone era. Plus, there'll be live music and complimentary refreshments.

If you've had a chance to check out the full program, you'll see there's something happening as part of the festival to suit everyone – from the crowning of the Strongest Man and Strongest Woman of the Hunter in the Hunter Strength Wars though to Banny's Baton Banter conducting the Christ Church Camerata at the stunning Sacred Spaces and retracing the steps – and downfall – of notorious bush-rangers Joe an Jimmy Governor in the Day of the Dead.

But first, we all need to take up our crochet hooks and turn out to loop Singleton's entrance to the Guinness Book of World Records and officially launch this year's festival. It doesn't matter if you've never tried crocheting before – there'll be a crash course at 9am ahead of the official world record attempt.

For all the information you need about the festival, head to [www.wearesingletonfestival.com](http://www.wearesingletonfestival.com). I look forward to seeing you there!

Cheers, Sue



JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Member for Hunter

ANZAC Day is an opportunity for all Australians to pay tribute to the men and women who have served our nation in wars, conflicts and on peacekeeping operations. It's one of the most important dates in our commemorative calendar.

We give our eternal gratitude to the sailors, soldiers, airmen and women, past and present, who have given so much for us.

It always delights me to see so many local people at our local services and yesterday was no exception.

During 1917, 76,836 Australians became casualties in battles such as Bullecourt, Messines, and the four-month campaign around Ypres known as the battle of Passchendaele. I've had the great privilege of visiting Australia's war graves there, including that of the Hunter's own Clarence Jeffries VC. This year also marks the Centenary of the Battle for Beersheba and the great charge of our Light Horse brigades.

I have also enjoyed the very great privilege of serving as Australia's Defence Minister and in that role, the further privilege of delivering speeches at ANZAC Day services on the Gallipoli peninsula and in Afghanistan. But whether I'm overseas or at home as was the case yesterday, every service is a moving one.

I thank all of our local RSL Sub Branch and Womens' Auxiliary members who again worked so hard to ensure ANZAC day was marked in an appropriate way. Lest we Forget.

\*\*\*\*\*

Global political upheaval continued on Sunday night our time when France's traditional major parties dropped out of the race for the Presidency. With no candidate securing fifty percent of the vote, the first and second placed candidates will now run off in two weeks' time. The socialists and the Republicans are left to reflect and re-build. Their defeat follows the unlikely win by Donald Trump and the decision of UK voters to leave the European Union. Whether the French will continue the run of shocks by electing the extreme right's Marine Le Pen is yet to be seen but the whole world will be nervously watching. Le Pen is aggressively anti-Europe and in office, could seek to follow the UK out through the EU door. That may be one too many shocks for our global architecture to bear.

Those of us who believe the current rules-based global order - while not perfect – serves us well, now pin our hopes on Emmanuel Macron. Extraordinarily, the thirty-nine-year-old does not even lead a political party, just a political movement. His strengths include his main-stream views, his charismatic personality and his lack of political baggage as a new-comer. The traditional parties, the business community and international players are now lining-up to back him in, whether in the end that proves an

advantage or disadvantage remains to be seen. We'll know soon enough.

Cheers, Joel



MICHAEL JOHNSEN MP Upper Hunter

I have welcomed the news that the NSW Government will provide \$8 million to expand a network of Country Universities Centres (CUC) to enable regional and rural university students to study in collaborative and supportive environments closer to home.

The CUC centres will be modelled on an already successful pilot centre in Cooma with at least five other centres to be established over the next three years.

The first Country Universities Centre was established in Cooma in 2013 to allow local students who are doing distance or online university courses to study together in a centre that offers facilities, technology and support staff. Our regional students should have the option to live in their local areas close to their family and friends while undertaking their university education rather than having to relocate for study which can be disruptive to their personal lives and expensive.

That is why the Nationals in Government are investing \$8 million in at least five new CUC hubs to provide local study spaces for university students who are studying by distance. Facilities are expected to include high speed internet, video-conferencing and computer and print facilities as well as workshops delivered by qualified local instructors.

There may also be opportunities to employ qualified local people to help students acquire the skills required to complete university courses such as research and essay writing.

As well as personal benefits for students, this can help reduce the loss of talent from country to city areas and allow local businesses to access local people with the qualifications to meet their needs.

As a Member of the NSW Government, I am calling for a Country University Centre to be located in Singleton, which I know will have profound benefits for students in Upper Hunter, and as such I will be working hard to achieve this outcome for our local community. The CUC Board is currently assessing locations for further regional hubs which will be established in conjunction with local communities.

Cheers, Michael

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**The good news about having pets!**

Research has shown that owning a pet can have a number of physical health benefits

- Increased cardiovascular health (lower blood pressure, lower triglycerides and in men, lower cholesterol)
- Increased physical activity. Dogs especially help us get out and enjoy the outdoors while getting some regular exercise. They are great motivators and personal trainers, never wanting to miss a training session no matter the weather.
- Fewer visits to the doctor
- Growing up with a dog (and other pets to a lesser extent) during infancy may help to strengthen the immune system and may reduce the risk of allergies
- Children who have pets are less likely to miss days of school due to illness. The joy of having a pet isn't new to most Australians; we have one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world. In fact our pets are such positive influences on our lives that one study found that Australian ownership of cats and dogs saved approximately \$3.86 billion in health expenditure over one year.

There is a wide range of research that points to the positive impact pets have on our general health. Not all of it, however, is able to prove cause and effect. Longitudinal research, which examines the health of an individual before and after pet acquisition, seems to establish the case more clearly. For example, it can be argued that people who are healthy are more likely to own a pet, rather than particular health benefits being the result of pet ownership.

•English scientist James Serpell conducted a longitudinal intervention study where three groups of people were recruited and the first given dogs, the second cats, and members of the third did not receive a pet. Before the intervention, all three groups had similar results for a self reported assessment of general health. One month later, the reports of minor illnesses and complaints had substantially reduced in the pet groups, and in the case of the dog group (but not the cat), this remained true for the ten month duration of the study. The difference between the dog and cat effect may be because dog owners take more exercise.

•In a German longitudinal study of 225 occupants in nursing homes, half the group were given pet budgerigars. The conclusion six weeks later was that "budgerigars can effectively intervene in processes of aging, increasing the physical, social and psychological quality of life in old age." Several studies have shown that pet

ownership may reduce the need for medical services.

•In a United States study of 938 Medicare enrollees, pet owners reported fewer doctor contacts during a one year period than non-owners.

•Jorm et al's subsequent examination of Australian Medicare records of elderly subjects (mean age 79.9) which found no difference in use of health services between pet owners and non-pet owners indicates that the health benefits may not extend equally to all members of the community. It still seems, however, that animal companionship may have a significant positive impact on the nation's health.

•German, Australian and Chinese data indicate that pet owners make fewer annual doctor visits than non-owners, and that the relationship remains statistically significant after controlling for gender, age, marital status, income and other variables associated with health. Research by Headey et al has compared Australian pet owners to those in Germany and China, and found that the health benefits of pet ownership for the general community exist in the populations of all three countries, particularly for the long term pet owners. The German and Australian results were the first national representative surveys to show that (1) people who continuously own a pet are the healthiest group (2) people who acquire a pet after not previously owning one are the second healthiest group and (3) people who cease to have a pet or never had one, are the least healthy groups.

**Children connect with local indigenous culture**

Children at Singleton Council's Out of School Hours Care got a unique insight into Singleton's local indigenous heritage at an event organised by the Singleton Community Garden and Singleton Council on Thursday 13 April.

Made possible through funding from Glencore, the 'Singleton's Indigenous Heritage - A Youth Experience' project aimed to connect local children with the indigenous community by discussing and learning about indigenous culture directly from elders. The event included a visit to Baime Cave guided by local elder Warren Taggart, as well as a tour of the bush tucker garden with Kevin Lomax. Mark Ihlein, Council's Director Planning and Sustainable Environment, said the children were also treated to a performance by Uncle Perry, an Aboriginal Education Officer from Kotara School, to teach them about the many different facets of Aboriginal life and culture, including language, music and dance. "It is important that children are provided with the opportunity to connect with country by learning about local indigenous customs and language, which many never have an opportunity to do," he said. "The 'Singleton's Indigenous Heritage - A Youth Experience' project provided an opportunity for children to understand the significance and stories behind a local indigenous site, plus

learn about bush tucker plants native to the Singleton area." President of Singleton Community Garden Kevin Lomax said it was wonderful to see the children so engaged with the plants.

"The learning facility at the Community Garden enables participants to experience nature up close through seeing, feeling and smelling the bush tucker plants," he said.

"We are very appreciative of the funding and support provided by Glencore to enable this event to be held; to the Singleton Men's Shed who provided catering on the day; and Mark from Anvil Buses who transported everyone to and from the event safely."



Singleton Council's Melinda Hale, Kevin Lomax from Singleton Community Garden, Keith Simkin from Glencore and Uncle Perry from Kotara School with children from Singleton Out of School Hours Care (OOSH) at the event.



**North Rothbury Persoonia Planting Day (26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017)**

The Critically Endangered North Rothbury Persoonia (*Persoonia pauciflora*) grows only within a small area near North Rothbury within the Cessnock City Council Local Government Area.

NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and Mount Annan Botanic Gardens have grown the North Rothbury Persoonia and are establishing new populations in bushland around North Rothbury.

As a resident of the North Rothbury area, you are invited to attend a North Rothbury Persoonia planting day.

When: Two planting days are being held: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017 from 11am - 2pm each day.

Where: 900 metres along Old North Road when coming from Wine Country Drive (just after Black Creek Farm). From here you will be driven to the planting site (see map on next page).



**What's involved on the day?**

<p><b>Assist with planting 200 plants</b></p> <p>Come along and help us plant as few or as many plants as you want, or just come and say hi.</p>   <p>So we can plan a safe and successful event confirming attendance is essential. Please confirm by 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017 by emailing or calling:</p> <p>Paul Hillier (Office of Environment and Heritage) T: (02) 4927 3137 M: 0438 032 997 E: paul.hillier@environment.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>We will just need to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- name of each volunteer (please note: parental supervision required for anyone under 15 years);</li> <li>- which days and times you will arrive;</li> <li>- any dietary requirements for lunch; and</li> <li>- if you are wanting plants to take home?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Lunch provided:</b></p> <p>Lunch will be provided on site at 12:30pm. Please let us know if you have any specific dietary requirements.</p> <p><b>What to bring?</b></p> <p>You will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- enclosed footwear that is clean of mud and seeds;</li> <li>- long pants; and</li> <li>- clothes suitable for the day's weather conditions.</li> </ul> <p>If you have them, also bring along gloves and shovels.</p>	<p><b>Plants to take home:</b></p> <p>Let us know if you wish to receive plants to plant in the garden or bushland within your North Rothbury property.</p> <p><b>Can't attend?</b></p> <p>If you can't attend, but are interested in receiving plants, being involved in future events, or getting more information about the North Rothbury Persoonia Recovery program, please let us know.</p>
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**Beating the bulge can be tough in winter when we tend to crave high fat comfort food. Here are some great healthy alternatives.**

Salads and steamed veggies can't quite cut it in winter. Fortunately, there are ways to get that sense of a soul satisfying comfort meal without the fat and kilojoules of standard winter fare. Soups are an obvious choice, but baked pasta dishes with loads of veg can also be great for the diet conscious, as can risottos made without high-fat cheese but instead using such flavour enhancers such as good stock, herbs, spices, parmesan, wild mushrooms or porcini powder.

**Look east**

When counting kilojoules it's often better to seek out recipes that are inherently low-fat rather than trying to find or create low-fat versions of high fat food. Asian cuisines offer a world of delicious, warming, diet-friendly choices, from Japanese and Thai noodle

**Winter Food Hints**

- soups, stir-fries and hot pots to Indian dahls and vegetable curries.
- Miso udon noodle soup
- Japanese vegetarian hotpot
- Chicken jungle curry
- Lentil and cauliflower dahl

**Hot potato**

Baked potatoes are a surprisingly low-cal, satisfying and filling meal if you stuff them with healthy toppings such as baked beans (great for protein); salsa and creamed corn; low-fat ricotta, cream cheese or cottage cheese and chives or other herbs; hummus or yoghurt and ratatouille. Be sure to pile some greens on the side.

Tuna and corn jacket potatoes

**Eggcellent**

Eggs are one of the best super foods around, packed full of nutrients and they can easily be turned into healthy winter meals, such as frittatas, pies and quiches made with herbs and vegetables; omelettes stuffed with your favourite lean meats, low-fat cheese, veggies and herbs; or baked egg dishes.

**Gypsy eggs**

**Get creative**

Comfort staples often be made healthier with a little tweaking. Use lean mince and add extra veg and lentils to your usual spag bog; substitute some of the high fat cheddar in your favourite mac 'n' cheese for a low-fat ricotta and add greens, such as broccoli or peas; top Shepherd's Pie with sweet potato mash made creamy with low-fat sour cream and milk; and pad your meat loaf with grated veggies such as carrot and zucchini.





Agricultural/Environment) with Guest Speaker on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July at Branxton Community Hall at 10.00am for 10.30am. Hot Lunch. Raffle/Lucky Door Prizes. \$15.00 per person. Any dietary requirements re gluten free etc., as well as any enquiries, please contact Marie 0402015850 or email [branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com](mailto:branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com)

At our April meeting, we were advised by President, Leanne Bendeich, 2 donations had been made by State CWA of NSW from the Disaster Relief Fund - \$50,000 to St Ivan Fire Appeal and \$50,000 to the Earthquake Appeal in New Zealand. CWA of NSW has just run another successful tea room at the Royal Easter Show with a new record of over 50,000 scones being baked and sold. This is a major state fundraiser. To all of our supporters – THANK YOU – as we donate our funds to the Disaster Relief Fund (as well as other charities) on your behalf, so without your contribution, the CWA of NSW would not be able to make these donations. The next function on the CWA calendar is hosting/catering the Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am for 10.30am. Delicious HOMEMADE scones, cakes and slices with tea/coffee and water/cordial will be available for \$10 per person. All proceeds to the Cancer Council. Bookings essential please (for catering purposes) to Marie 0402015850 or email [branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com](mailto:branxtongretacwa@hotmail.com)

Next will be the "All-in-One" Day (Birthday, Handicraft, Cultural, International,

Along with the CWA, most of our members have jobs and many other interests. Our President, Leanne Bendeich and her husband, Robert, breed and show Roosters and Pullets and have had success in Regional Shows but have had great success at the recent Royal Easter Show.

Champion Leghorn Trio – Rooster and 2 Pullets  
Best Barnevelder – Male  
Champion Brown Leghorn Pullet  
Congratulations Leanne and Robert.  
On the date of publication, Easter and School Holidays will be over and hopefully all in the community that have travelled will have returned safely and all enjoyed the break. Anzac Day also falls on the day of publishing and we will be remembering all who fought in armed conflicts (past and present) and also the men and women who stayed behind to do their jobs for them. Also, the women who cooked and sewed and sent packages to not only their loved ones, but also some they didn't even know. Lest we forget.

Denise McGoldrick  
Publicity Officer.

## Tourism in the Hunter

**The Good News: 3.3 million domestic overnight visitors in the year ending September 2016**  
**The Bad News: only 155,500 international overnight visitors in that period!**



NSW tourism generates over 260,000 jobs, and \$37 billion in consumption annually. According to Destination NSW, the Hunter received over 3.3 million domestic overnight visitors in the year ending September 2016 which is up 8.9% on the previous year. While for the year ending September 2016 the Hunter received 155,500 international overnight visitors. This is a decrease of 6.6% from the year ending September 2015. The NSW Business Chamber's Mid Term Assessment found "regional NSW has largely missed out on the tourism boom, with visitors to Sydney failing to extend their trip with a visit to a regional area." This decrease represents lost income that Hunter Valley families can ill afford. The NSW Chamber says the major reason for this decrease is the amount of red-tape involved in access to tourism programs and funding, along with a lack of strategy. "If the NSW Government is to grow regional tourism, it needs to provide the funding and policy attention that's needed, starting with a strategy to boost the dispersal of the lucrative

Chinese market," Mr Gorddard, Executive Manager of the NSW Business Chamber, said. Mr Gorddard, Executive Manager of the NSW Business Chamber, also noted that, "Regional areas offer a variety of cultural, food and lifestyle experiences to attract visitors,

but tourism operators often lack the necessary support to market their products and understand the needs of consumers from diverse backgrounds". The ability to cater to diversity among tourists is a key component of capturing local, interstate and international

## Hunter Tourism

markets.

Growth in our ability to capture the international tourist market will translate into jobs growth and business opportunities.



## Pets and Patrols with Ranger Kurt

An important part of being a responsible pet owner is to ensure they are microchipped. We know how hard it is when your best mate ends up missing, but it certainly makes it a lot harder to locate the owner of a lost cat or dog when they aren't microchipped.

Did you know a dog must be microchipped by 12 weeks of age, at point of sale or when they are given away in order to comply with the law?

In order to help ensure your furry friend is microchipped and not flouting the rules Council's Ranger team are once again putting on a FREE microchipping event for dogs. It's bigger and better than last year as we are holding Microchipping Month of May. Residents wanting to get their pet microchipped should schedule in a Thursday afternoon during May.

**To get your dog microchipped visit:**

- Thursday 4 May 2017  
Miller Park, Branxton 1pm – 4pm
- Thursday 11 May 2017  
Varty Park, Weston 1pm – 4pm.
- Thursday 18 May 2017  
Manning Park, Cessnock 1pm – 4pm.
- Thursday 25 May 2017  
Standford Merthyr Park, Stanford Merthyr 1pm – 4pm.

At the event we are asking that all dogs must be on a lead. Rangers will also be on hand to answer any questions residents may have on the day. If you own a cat contact our Customer Service Team on 02 4993 4100 to arrange a free microchipping by one of our Rangers.

The search has begun for Cessnock's cutest cat or dog. The competition kicked off on Council's Facebook page on Friday 21 April. If you think your dog or cat has what it takes you can enter by liking the Cessnock City Council page, sending an image of your pet to Cessnock City Council via a Facebook message and telling us your pet's name.

Remember to be eligible to enter your pet must be microchipped and registered in the Cessnock Local Government Area. To find out more visit <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/news/cutestpetcomp>.

## Cessnock City Council awarded Public Library Infrastructure Grants Funding

Cessnock City Council has been granted \$200,000 towards *Elevating Cessnock Library* with NSW Government funding through the 2016/17 Public Library Infrastructure Grants Program.

The Public Library Infrastructure Grants Program supports projects that will assist NSW Councils to improve public library infrastructure including buildings and information technology systems.

Mr Clayton Barr MP, Member for Cessnock, congratulated Council on receiving the funding and wished them well in undertaking the project.



You can contact Council on 02 4993 4300 or [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

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26 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2017	9 Day Margaret River \$3690
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017	5 Day Stanthorpe Tour \$1050
25 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017	11 Day Tassie Tour \$3480

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BRANXTON-GRETA PARISH MASS TIMES

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Thursday 9.20am Mass St Brigid's Church Branxton  
Saturday (during daylight savings) 5.30pm Reconciliation and 6pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton  
Saturday (outside daylight savings – from 6 May 2017) 4.30pm Reconciliation and 5pm Mass St Brigid's Branxton  
Sunday 8am Mass St Catherine's Church Greta

SINGLETON PARISH MASS TIMES

Tuesday 7pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton  
Wednesday 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton  
Thursday 6.00pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton  
Friday 9.20am Mass (4<sup>th</sup> Friday Anointing Mass)  
Saturday 9.20am Mass St Patrick's Singleton  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 6pm Mass Broke (5pm outside daylight savings)  
4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 6pm Mass Glendonbrook (5pm outside daylight savings)  
Sunday 7am, 10am and 6pm Mass St Patrick's Singleton



# Real News Estate



## Helping retirees sell key to supply

The key to housing supply is unlocking property held by retirees and upgraders who are choosing to stay put due to the cost of stamp duty, according to the Real Estate Institute of New South Wales. REINSW President John Cunningham said comments made by NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian that she is open to tax

changes to improve supply and housing affordability are a step in the right direction. "Premier Berejiklian has stated that the key to housing affordability is supply. However, supply is not just about new homes. The key to housing supply is unlocking existing properties held by retirees. "Buyers are now forking out over four per cent of the value of a property on stamp duty and this is stopping the supply of established homes flowing

into the market. "This problem has been caused by successive governments who failed to address stamp duty bracket creep for over 30 years. "By providing stamp duty incentives to older Australians to downsize we will see many more properties coming onto the market. "There would be a chain reaction. One transaction can set off a chain reaction that leads to 10 sales. If we get the supply of existing properties flowing then the price pressure will be eased. "In order to set this in motion we call on the NSW government to provide retirees with a 50 per cent reduction in stamp duty for a residential property purchased to replace an existing residential property up to the value of \$1 million.

"In combination with this strategy there needs to be genuine and compelling incentives for all buyers, including retirees, to relocate to regional areas in order to ease the pressure on the Sydney market," Mr Cunningham said

## Australia seen as a safe haven by wealthy

Australia is seen as a safe haven by the world's wealthiest individuals according to Knight Frank's Wealth Report.

The annual report is brought out to give a global perspective on wealth and investment opportunities and strategies. It revealed that the number of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWI) - US\$30 million or more in net assets - had grown by 85% in Australia from 2006 -2016.

Australia is also expected to see a 70% rise in UHNWIs between now and 2026. However, the overall population will still be smaller than several European countries, including Germany and Switzerland. Kymbal Dunne, Knight Frank Director Office Leasing in Sydney, said: "Australia is seen by UHNWIs as a safe haven. Sydney and Melbourne, in particular, are the two global cities of interest to them.

"It's an excellent place to educate your children and a back-up strategy for foreigners looking to relocate, should things not work out in their homeland. "The liveability, climate, political stability, transparency and sophistication of markets, and the currency value compared to US



dollar, make investing attractive." He added: "Flights with no 'stop over' like the Perth to London leg planned for 2018 will be game

changers. "Political instability caused by Brexit in Europe and USA's "America First" policy must have an impact on the world. This will change capital flows, where safe havens are more sought after whilst uncertainty continues. "Property development needs to reflect global standards and service expectations, as it will be compared to that of other global cities. I think mixed development will become more viable, as people want to live closer to work." The number of UHNWI's is predicted to climb by 12% in Europe over the next decade, compared with 91% in Asia. Vietnam is expected to see its ultra-wealthy population rise by 170% to 540 over the next decade - the highest rate of growth in the world.

## Other report findings

●the UK's traditional alliances with Australia, the US, Canada and New Zealand will all grow stronger post-Brexit. It is expected Britain will reintroduce two-year working visas for citizens from Australia and New Zealand in the next few

years ●Randwick in Sydney has been picked by experts to outperform in the category of infrastructure and transport, thanks to several stations on a new light railway line, scheduled for completion in 2018

●Australia was named number eight on a list of countries where property investors were most likely to invest. The UK was number one, America second and Germany third.

## Care needed with risky lending restrictions

The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) has urged caution in the actions of regulators and banks to limit bank lending in an attempt to dampen investor demand for property in Sydney and Melbourne. REIA President Malcolm Gunning said: "Whilst warnings about interest-only loans and over committed borrowers might be justified in some circumstances it does not mean all interest only loan borrowers should be penalised and outlawed. "The cumulative impact of the collective action of APRA, ASIC and individual banks could well be sledgehammer when only some fine tuning was required. "We need to be careful that we don't constrain the

building and construction sector that has kept the Australian economy growing following the decline in the mining sector. "Anecdotal evidence suggests that this is a real risk and the "expert opinions" we are being bombarded with daily can quickly become a doomsday prophecy. "The actions of regulators and banks to restrain the surge of property investment in the two major capital cities are reacting to what we see in the rear vision mirror. "The data being acted on is lagged. We need to consider what is happening in the market place at the moment and what the combined impact of the measures will have - none of which will be apparent for some time to come. "Market information from our Sydney and Melbourne member agents suggests that there are signs of a slow down. The leading indicators tell a very different story to the lagged historical data. "We need to be careful that an overreaction to the investor led Sydney and Melbourne property markets doesn't threaten the health of the national economy."



# TAYLOR

PROPERTY MARKETING

1300 803 300

taylorrealestate.com.au

7 Dalwood Road, EAST BRANXTON



## 'Blank Canvas'

Located in an established street surrounded by quality homes sits this fabulous sized block of land offering your family the opportunity to build their dream home.

The property features:

- Level block
- East Branxton
- Northerly aspect at the front
- Frontage: 13.5m x 14.78m
- Depth: 48.2m x 48.6m
- Land Size: 684.1sqm

Agent: Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836

75 High Street, GRETA



## 'Cute Neat And Sweet'

- 3 Good sized bedrooms
- Separate lounge with air conditioning
- Dining room with air conditioning
- Large open space with power high ceilings; fully insulated walls and roof
- 4 metre shed with WC
- Rear lane access
- Off street parking for up to 5 cars
- Undercover BBQ area
- Land size: 505sqm
- Pets considered upon application

Agent: Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836

“ Knowing just where you stand in the market gives you better choices! ”

A Free Market Appraisal is a start, it gives you the peace of mind of knowing where you stand in the market. I can then plan a successful marketing campaign for your property.

Call me now for a **FREE** market appraisal and let's discuss your options.

**Catherine Taylor 0408 688 836**







The Branxton Lions Club had it's recent Fund Raising event with a "Sausage Sizzle" at the Singleton Bunnings store. The money raised will be donated to the Australian Lions Foundation & the Dunnedoo Bushfire Appeal. WE would like to thank Bunnings Hardware for their support. The Branxton Lions Club is always looking for new members to assist in helping our community. If you would like to give something back to the community please call Club President Bob Rhodes on

4938 1001 or Alan on 4938 1654.

■ Photo above: Club members at the recent Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

## Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate

....for all your real estate needs

**4938 3300**

## Congrats Mitch & Sam



Congratulations to Mitchell O'Hara and Samantha McLeod of Greta on the birth of their first son Reuben John O'Hara on the 22/3/17 9pd 8oz & 54cm long First grandchild for Olga and Michael McLeod and Brad and Francine O'Hara, first nephew for Auntie ebony and uncle Curtis.

## Verses provide 'Poetic Licence'

'Verses' a poets in residence pilot program, has found its first poet and café match. Highly accomplished, National Poetry Slam finalist Gillian Swain will be starting her residency from Monday 1 May at Organic Feast in East Maitland. Ms Swain explains, 'Whilst poetry is often seen as a very personal and private endeavour, poetry can also be extremely social and wonderful fun. Verses will bring more opportunities for the community to connect over a cuppa and chat, through writing, reading, sharing, listening and encouraging.' The program connects Hunter based poets with Maitland cafes for a part time residency. Poets are given space to write and create poetry based on the hustle and bustle of café life, the local area and their own experiences. The idea is for poets to enrich the cultural life of the cafe and surrounds through conversations, connections and performances. Joseph Stuart, Markets Manager at Organic Feast says 'We are proudly supporting this wonderful

initiative of Council. Our café has long been a meeting point for cultural, creative and socially diverse groups. We know there is a vibrant, creative culture in Maitland and I think it is fabulous that Verses is inviting this life into the public space.' Hunter poets and Maitland cafes are invited to participate in the Verses project by completing an expression of interest online by Friday 21 April. Hurry time is running out, so visit [maitland.nsw.gov.au/Library/events/verses](http://maitland.nsw.gov.au/Library/events/verses) Maitland City Librarian Keryl Collard says 'Verses is a great initiative that brings poetry off the page and into popular local cafes. We are keen to support poets in exploring participatory culture and creative connections. 'We are also pleased to partner with the Hunter Writers Centre to establish a monthly meet up for poets at the East Maitland Library. The group, Poetic Voices, hosted by award winning poet Cassandra O'Loughlin, will meet on the fourth Saturday of each month, commencing Saturday 27 May.'

The timing of Verses coincides with the upcoming June closing date for entering the highly regarded 2017 Newcastle Poetry Prize, one of the most significant and influential poetry competitions in Australia, awarding over \$20,000 in prize money. Verses is an unpaid voluntary program. Residencies are typically for two to three times a week in consultation with the participating café, who provide complimentary tea/coffee/food for the poet.

## Chocolate is not all bad!



School holidays with Easter smack bang in the middle! A perfect combination of events which means it has been more tempting than usual to say "the diet starts tomorrow". A lack of routine during the school holidays plus the inevitable gathering of friends over the Easter long weekend, can result in our best intentions being side lined in favour of popcorn at the movies (have you seen the Batman Lego movie yet??) not to mention the chocolate Easter eggs which seem to be in never ending supply. I gave up a long time ago thinking of what I eat as a "diet". I just try and eat as healthily as I can, and as mindfully as I can, while watching my portion sizes. But even personal trainers can be tempted to let things slide for a day or so, and that day can quickly turn into a week! So I try and make sure that my healthy eating goals are backed up with tips and tricks which are now habits which I hardly have to think about.

For example, I love chocolate. I just love it in smaller quantities than I used to. I have also become quite fussy. Instead of eating any chocolate available, as the saying goes I now prefer quality over quantity. Here are some of my other top tips for getting through Easter (and beyond) without piling on the kilos or feeling guilty because you have over-indulged.

Ask for what you want. If you don't want chocolate at Easter(or any other time), say so. Your friends and family should respect your health and fitness goals. If, despite this, you are still given chocolate, you don't have to eat it. Just thank them and give it to someone else (I find it is best to get it out of the house as quickly as possible, but one option is to take it to work with you and share it with your work mates). If you can't imagine Easter without chocolate, remember bigger is not necessarily better. Ask for a small good quality Easter egg, rather than the giant egg with lots of smaller eggs inside. They will probably cost the same amount, but the smaller one is likely to taste better and have fewer calories!

If you are giving Easter eggs at Easter, don't buy extra. It is tempting when they are on sale to buy more "just in case I have forgotten someone, or in case someone turns up unexpectedly". Chances are, you have not forgotten anyone, and you won't have any unexpected visitors, but what you will have is extra chocolate in the house once Easter is over. This goes for any other gathering of family and friends – do you really need to buy that extra round of Brie? Or is it just going to sit in your fridge after the long weekend, tempting you until you eat it so it doesn't go to waste.

Put your food (even your chocolate) on a plate and sit down to eat. It is easy to grab a small chocolate egg (or other snack) and eat it on the run, but will you really enjoy it, or even remember that you have had it? Be mindful about what you eat. Put it on a nice plate and sit down at the table. Turn off all your distractions (Facebook on your phone, candy crush saga, emails on your computer) and for a few minutes just enjoy doing one thing – eating. You are more likely to pay attention to what you are eating. Plan ahead. If you are going on a picnic or to a friend's place for a BBQ, take healthy snacks or side dishes. It doesn't have to look like "diet" food. I like making a sweet potato dip which I can have with carrot or celery sticks. Or make a potato bake with low fat cheese and low fat milk. Or offer to take a salad so you can keep the dressing on the side. If you know there is going to be at least one healthy dish there that you are happy to eat, you will be less stressed about how the event fits into your meal plan for the week.

Keep track of what you eat and drink by writing it down. It is easy to lose track and forget what you have eaten, especially if you are away from home or eating on the run, so write it down! There are plenty of free apps you can use (I like My Fitness Pal but there are others) or you can do it the old-fashioned way and write it down on paper. You don't necessarily have to keep track of the calories for each item of food, just the simple habit of writing down what you eat can make you feel more accountable for what you are eating.

Finally, remember that chocolate is not "bad" or "good". It is just food. Don't beat yourself up when you eat it, but do make sure you really enjoy the experience and make it worthwhile. And if you don't eat it today, it will still be there tomorrow (unless of course the kids eat it all, in which case you should have hidden it better!!).

### What else is happening at "Louise Cairns Fit for Life"?

The 10 week "Health and Fitness Challenge" kicked off in the first week of April. I am really impressed with the dedication being shown by everyone who is taking part. Everyone has different goals, which we discussed during their individual goal setting sessions. If you would like to join the next Challenge please contact me via my website.

I had a fantastic ski-trip to Japan. It was the first time I have experienced "spring skiing" in Japan, and my quads were burning by the end of day three (with four more to go!). With no fresh snow during our visit, the conditions were a bit hard and icy with none of the fabled powder, but we were blessed with beautiful clear blue skies and amazing views. One Aussie instructor who was there for the season told me that if I skied in Australia I would be used to the conditions! I am now busy putting together some specific exercise programs for clients who want to go skiing during the southern hemisphere winter. We are going a bit later than usual as my son broke his arm just before Christmas and we had to wait until he could snowboard again! With less than five weeks to go until the UTA50 trail running event I am starting to get nervous. Like many others I am wondering if I have "done enough", and coming to the realisation that whether I have or whether I haven't, it is too late to do much more.

## Louise Cairns Fit for Life

Louise Cairns is a Personal Trainer and Life Coach based in Branxton. Louise retired from a twenty year management career with the Australian Government to set up her own Fitness and Coaching business, Louise Cairns Fit for Life. Louise runs regular fitness classes at Lochinvar and Branxton, as well as PT sessions in Branxton and Kurri Kurri. Louise also helps people set and achieve their own goals at work and home. You can find out more at [www.louisecairns.com.au](http://www.louisecairns.com.au)

BRANXTON GRETAWORKERS CLUB

**Tues 9th May**

**Greta Workers Club**

**7.00pm (start)**

Tues 7th Mar & Tues 9th May  
Tues 8th Aug & Tues 10th Oct

**ALL WELCOMED**

Money Prizes  
Supper provided

More Information ring:  
Cynthia 0249 381703  
Dell 0249 387783

**St Brigid's Markets @ Branxton**

**9.00am to 1.00pm**

**Dates for 2017**

Sun - 19th Feb	Sun - 18th Jun	Sun - 15th Oct
Sun - 19th Mar	Sun - 16th July	Sun - 19th Nov
No Market for April	Sun - 20th Aug	Sun - 17th Dec
Sun - 21st May	Sun - 17th Sep	

Helen 0427 047 024  
[www.facebook.com/stbrigidsmarkets](http://www.facebook.com/stbrigidsmarkets)



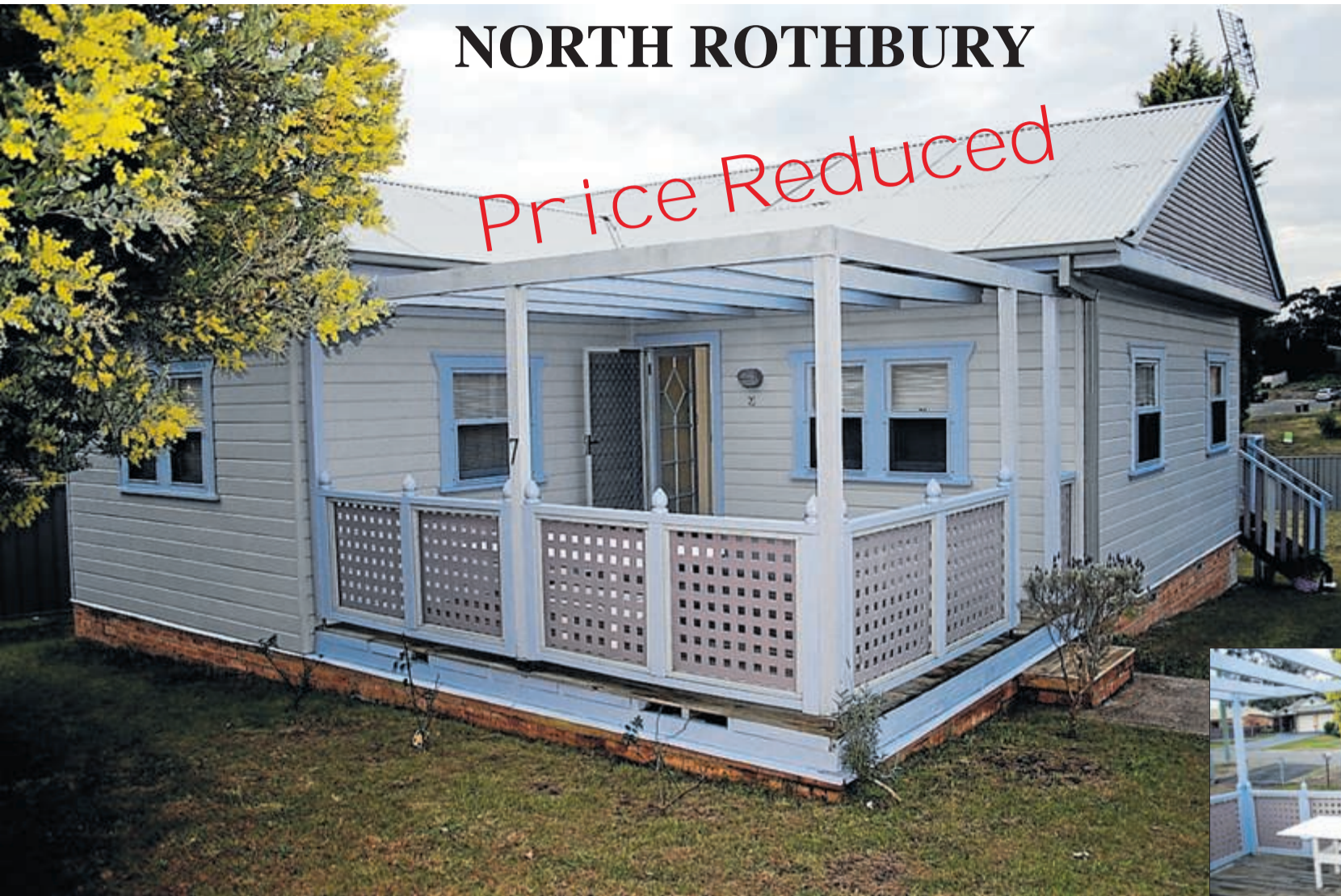
For Sale

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

NORTH ROTHBURY

Price Reduced



“Jewel box”

This wonderfully fully renovated weatherboard cottage is set on a very large fenced block in the small hamlet of North Rothbury. Features include:- new bathroom, renovated kitchen, new decking front & back (both covered from summer evenings westerly sun), very large block, original floor boards renovated to near perfection, 2 bedrooms, 4 minutes to Hunter wineries & restaurants & 2 minutes to Huntlee New Town proposed commercial centre & other facilities. The home has a number of decor/design features that make this cottage a unique experience.

~~\$295,000~~ \$280,000



For Sale

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300

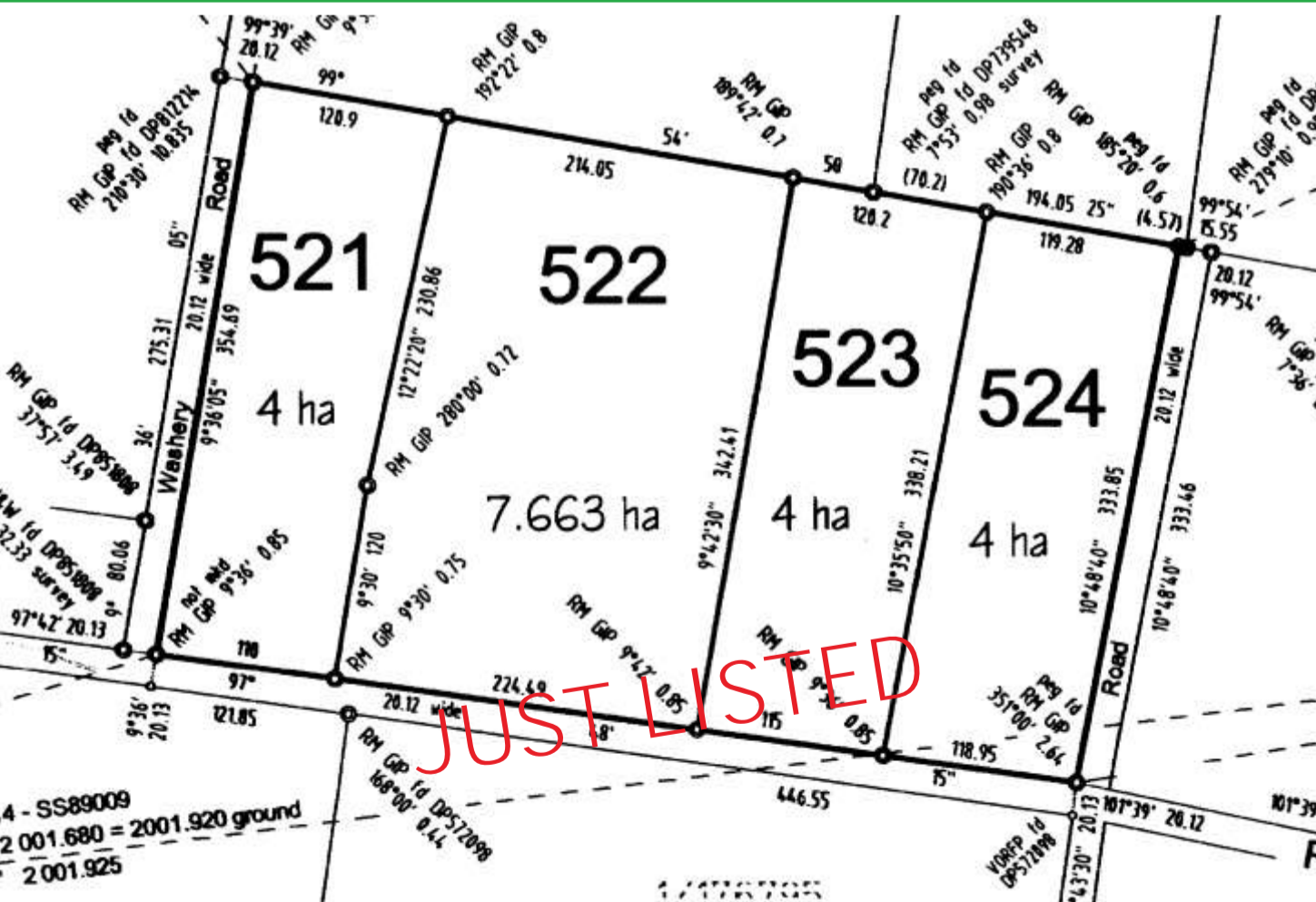
NORTH ROTHBURY

Lots 521, 523 & 524 Littlewood Road, North Rothbury.

Vacant blocks 4ha (10 acres) very private bush blocks.

Fenced with power to boundary.

Within minutes to Hunter Wine Country



ASKING: \$420,000 each

BRANXTON & VINEYARDS REAL ESTATE

P: 4938 3300





**FOR LEASE**

**Commercial property in Maitland Street, Branxton**

**Rent by Negotiation**

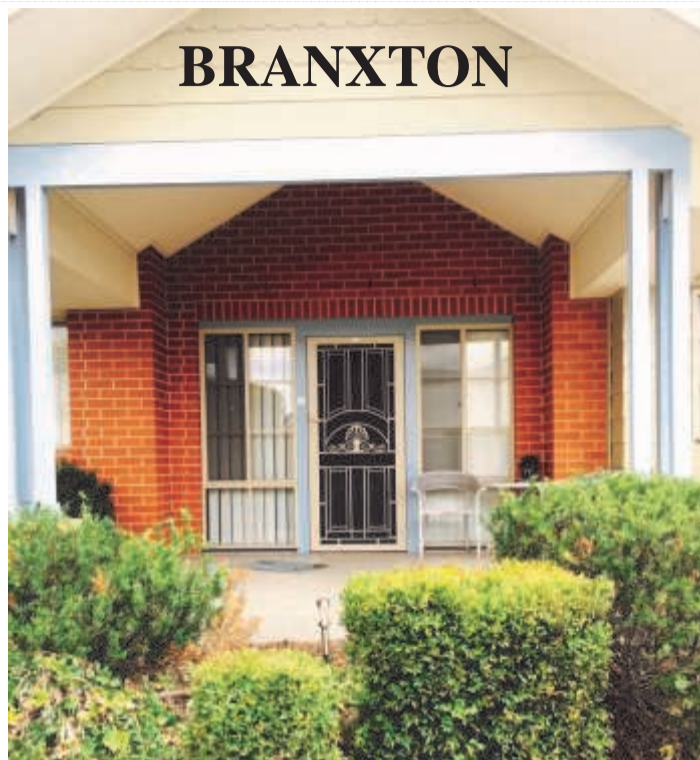


**EAST BRANXTON**

**Features include:-**

Balcony / Patio / Terrace, Bath, Block 1145sm, Built in Wardrobes, Close to Schools, Close to Shops, Close to Transport, Fireplace(s), Formal Dining, Formal Lounge, Garden, Internal Laundry, Large Fenced Block, Lovely Queensland Room with spa, Modern Bathroom, Modern Kitchen, Split system air conditioning & slow combustion fire & Quiet Location

**Asking \$370,000**



**BRANXTON**

**Senior Living**

This heritage designed 2 bedroom strata unit has an ensuite to the main bedroom, a lock-up garage & your own private courtyard. It is totally landscaped & also feature security gating. The site surrounds Branxton Medical Centre, is a 2 minute walk to the main shopping & amenities area, is just 5 minutes drive to the famous Hunter Valley Wineries, resorts & golf courses.

**\$315,000**



**GRETA**

**Oldie but a Goodie**

**First home or astute investor**

An older style 3 bedroom, separate lounge & good sized 'eat-in' kitchen, cottage on a fully fenced block. Excellent buy for a first home, astute investor or someone looking to enter the real estate market.

**ASKING \$275,000**



**GRETA**

**For the astute investor**

**Approx. 2000sm (half an acre)**

**58 High Street, Greta**

An older style 3 bedroom cottage is situated on this large, approx half acre, block. This is one for the savvy investor/developer or renovator.

**ASKING \$472,000 (Open to All reasonable Offers)**



**Just listed**

**BRANXTON**

**Modern 3 bedroom Townhouse**

Modern three bedroom townhouse of brick & tile construction. Split air con. Ensuite to main bedroom. Open plan living with modern kitchen, separate lounge room. Double lock-up garage with internal access. Private & secure back yard

**Asking \$320,000**



**SOLD**

**BRANXTON**

**Low maintenance living**

Spacious two bedroom home with large living areas; all tiled. Split air con, internal access garage & auto roller door. Modern kitchen with ample bench space. Lovely courtyard for entertaining.

**Asking \$290,000**



**Open to Offers**

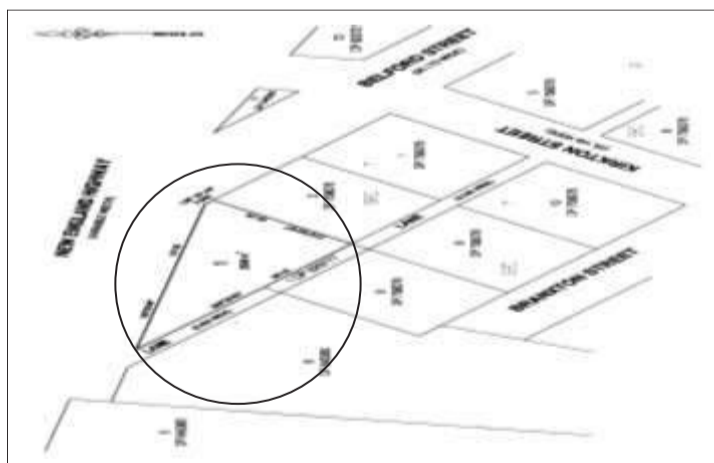
**BRANXTON**

**Potential! Potential**

Two large bedrooms plus large 'sleep-out'. Separate lounge, bathroom, Kitchen. Good sized fenced yard plus separate garage.

One to do up at the expected price

**Expressions of Interest**



**BELFORD  
Vacant Land ~ 2559m<sup>2</sup>**

**Vacant Land with building approved  
Lot 1 DP 1205549  
Well over half an acre of good level block.**

**PRICE \$160,000 ONO**



**Just listed**

**EAST BRANXTON**

AN ideal opportunity to renovate one of the oldest homes in Branxton! This home is on approx 1100sm corner block. The house needs extensive work but the core is there to rejuvenate this wonderful example of a Federation home back to its original glory. Three bedrooms, separate lounge, fireplace, wooden kitchen. The work has already commenced with a new power board & extensive plumbing renovation. 6 X 8 shed with power at rear.

**PRICE \$300,000**



# Microchipping Month of May



Varty Park,  
Weston  
1pm – 4pm.

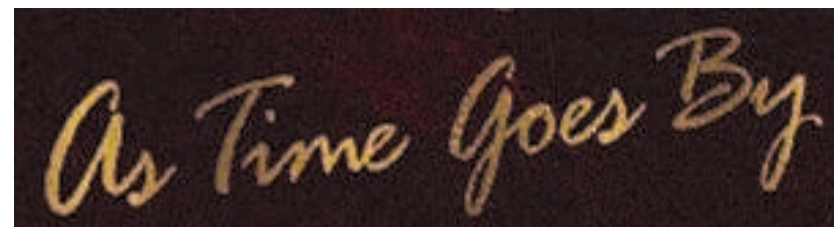
Thursday 18 May  
2017

Manning Park,  
Cessnock  
1pm – 4pm.  
Stanford  
Merthyr Park,  
Stanford  
Merthyr  
1pm – 4pm.

Rangers will be on hand to answer any questions residents may have on the day. All dogs must be on a lead. If you own a cat contact our Customer Service Team on 02 4993 4100 to arrange a free microchipping by one of our Rangers. For further information please contact 4993 4300 or visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au).

## “Pokolbin Reds” Season Launch Party, Saturday 29th April 2017

The Club has organised a party on Saturday 29th April from 4pm to celebrate the start of the season. Foundation Members, Seniors, Juniors and their families are all invited with a pig on the spit, drinks and entertainment. The event will be held at our new PRC Home Ground at St Philip's Christian College,



Issue 297

Wednesday 28 July, 2010

### First women President of Branxton Lions Club



Congratulations to Pat Stephens for her ascendancy to president of the Branxton Lions Club. Pat has two firsts for the club being the first female member & the first female president. Pat has also been secretary for the past 8 years & has been involved in all Branxton Lions projects over that time. Well done.

Cessnock City Council is excited to announce Microchipping Month of May giving residents the opportunity to get their dog microchipped for FREE. The initiative organised by Council's Ranger team aims to see every dog in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) microchipped. Ranger Team Leader, Kurt Livens encouraged residents to take advantage of the free event and get your best mate microchipped. "Microchipping your pet is important because without one it is very hard for rangers to quickly locate

and reunite owners with their lost pets." The event this year is a little different as it extends across four Thursday's in May and will be held at dog parks throughout the LGA. Ranger Livens hopes the new format will gives residents more opportunity to attend as they now have a number of dates to choose from. "We always have such a great response from the community for the free microchipping event and we have worked to make the event more flexible", Ranger Livens said. A pet must microchipped

by 12 weeks of age, at point of sale or when they are given away in order to comply with the law. To get your dog microchipped visit:  
**Thursday 4 May 2017**  
Miller Park,  
Branxton  
1pm – 4pm  
**Thursday 11 May 2017**

10 Lomas Lane, Nulkaba. It would be great to see as many Pokolbin Rugby players and families there as possible.

Go to our event on the Pokolbin Rugby Facebook page to RSVP if you are

going and comment with how many people will be joining you.



A six session parenting program for parents of children aged 4 to 12 years

Would you like to learn how to:

- be better at talking with your child?
- be better at understanding your child?
- help your child learn to manage their emotions?
- help to prevent behaviour problems in your child?
- teach your child to deal with conflict?

Tuning in to Kids shows you how to help your child develop **emotional intelligence**. Children with higher emotional intelligence:

- have greater success with making and keeping friends
- have better concentration at school
- are more able to calm down when upset or angry
- tend to have fewer childhood illnesses

Where: Greta Public School  
Wyndham St, Greta

When: Tuesdays 9.30-11.30am  
2 May 2017 to 6 June 2017

Contact: 6572 4288 or



# Branxton & Vineyards Real Estate

4938 3300

12 Clift Street, BRANXTON

.....for all your Real Estate needs

FREE PROPERTY MARKET APPRAISALS

F: 4938 3301

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WEB: [www.domain.com.au](http://www.domain.com.au)



**The simplest way**  
to improve the health of your family and save money

**Come to our FREE Fruit & Veg Sense Workshop**

Date: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
Time: 1:00pm-2:30pm  
Venue: Greta Public School

Did you know that eating enough fruit and vegetables all their lives can help protect children against diseases, including some forms of cancer? This **free workshop** run by Cancer Council NSW will show you how you can easily:

- Save time and money making healthy meals
- Learn clever ways to entice fussy eaters
- Get a free recipe book simply by attending

Don't miss out – registration is essential. To book your place please register no later than 04/05 /17 by:

Calling or visiting the school front office at:  
Greta Public School, Wyndham St, Greta NSW 2334  
Ph: (02) 4938 7331

or register online at:  
[www.cancerCouncil.org.au/eatittobeatit/register](http://www.cancerCouncil.org.au/eatittobeatit/register)





**GRETA WORKERS CLUB**  
2 WEST ST GRETA  
4938 7325

**MILLER PARK SPORTS CLUB**  
6 MAITLAND RD EAST BRANXTON  
4938 1226

# **GRETA WORKERS**

**RESTAURANT**  
**NEW CATERERS**

**AUSTRALIAN &  
ASIAN MENU**

***FRIDAY 28th APRIL***  
***ROCK OZ***

***FRIDAY 5th MAY***  
***WHISKEY BUSINESS***  
***DUO***

**ANZAC DAY**  
**ENTERTAINMENT**  
**“WITCHERY” 2.00pm**

**MEMBERS BADGE DRAW**  
**WEDNESDAY**

**26th APRIL**  
**\$4,400**  
**SUNDAY**  
**30th APRIL**  
**\$3,700**  
**MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**

**RAFFLES**  
**FRIDAY & SUNDAY**  
**MEAT RAFFLES**

## **MILLER PARK**

**MEMBERS BADGE DRAW**  
**THURSDAY 27th APRIL**  
**\$4,300**  
**SUNDAY 30th APRIL**  
**\$5,000**  
**MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**

**“THE PARK”**  
**RESTAURANT**  
**WEDNESDAY —**  
**SUNDAY**  
**LUNCH & DINNER**  
**CLUB PRICES**

**RAFFLES**  
**FRIDAY**  
**MEAT RAFFLE 7.00PM**  
**SUNDAY**  
**MEAT RAFFLE 6.00pm**

**HAPPY HOUR**  
**MILLER PARK WEDNESDAY**  
**GRETA THURSDAY**  
**4.00—6.00pm**  
**\$3.40 a Schooner**





## The Weekly Top 10 Fiction Bestseller List

No.1 .....  
 'War Cry' by Wilbur Smith (HarperCollins)

One of the most exciting things about this week's Top Ten fiction list is how many favourite bestselling authors are featured. It looks as though thrillers have been dominating everyone's reading list, and with so many brand new page-turners hot off the press, it's no wonder why. At Number 5 is crime master James Patterson's 16th Seduction, a new instalment in the Women's Murder Club Thriller series, as well as highly acclaimed standalone *The Black Book* at Number 2. For fans of historical fiction, Wilbur Smith retains the Number 1 spot with his latest *War Cry*, which continues the story of the Courtney family as the Second World War looms closer. . . It's been a tradition all year

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long, and there's a reason for it: Liane Moriarty has three of her novels in this week's Top Ten. *Big Little Lies* is at Number 2, *Truly Madly Guilty* at Number 4, and *The Husband's Secret* at Number 7.

We guarantee that all of them are a twisty delight. Clive Cussler has teamed up with Justin Scott to deliver us *The Cutthroat*, an Isaac Bell adventure, which tells the story of Chief Inspector Isaac Bell in 1911, who has to solve the case of a murdered actress. This week it takes the Number 8 spot. And homegrown author Sarah Schmidt has taken bookstores by storm with her debut *See What I Have Done*, a fictional reinvention of the life of Lizzie Borden, who was famously accused of murdering her mother and step-father in 1892. At Number 10 is *All by Myself Alone* by Mary Higgins Clark.

1. **War Cry** by Wilbur Smith (HarperCollins)
2. *Big Little Lies* (TV tie-in) by Liane Moriarty (Pan)
3. *The Black Book* by James Patterson (Century)
4. *Truly Madly Guilty* by Liane Moriarty (Pan)
5. *16th Seduction: A Women's Murder Club Thriller* by James Patterson (Century)
6. *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty (Pan)
7. *The Husband's Secret* by Liane Moriarty (Pan)
8. *The Cutthroat: Isaac Bell* by Clive Cussler and Justin Scott (Penguin)
9. *See What I Have Done* by Sarah Schmidt

(Hachette)  
 10. *All by Myself Alone* by Mary Higgins Clark (Simon & Schuster)

**REVIEW ~ War Cry**  
 After missing the mark with his last few novels, Wilbur Smith revisits his best-selling Courtney family franchise for the first time since 2009

when *Assegai* was released. Shifting from previous novels in the series, this book mostly follows a young woman named Saffron Courtney, whose father, Leon, is a businessman, war hero, and skillful hunter. In his own words, Leon is "confident in his prowess as a hunter and fighting man," and he's trained his daughter well. From an early age on, and certainly now, Saffron outdoes the boys she competes against. First on the polo field, then later by beating everyone else with her equestrian skills. Set prior to World War II, Saffron continues to hone her skills on the open fields of their large Kenya home under the watchful eye of her father.

Between revisiting Leon's point of view and filling new readers in on the family's backstory, Saffron slowly grows up as the story presses on. Soon she's a teenager ready to face the world, or so she thinks. Then a tragedy that hits close to home shakes Saffron, and the rest of the Courtney family, which stays with her. While away in South Africa for school, Saffron inadvertently runs into Gerhard von Meerbach. Gerhard's family has some history with Leon, which is revisited once the two connect, though Gerhard is

ABOUT

Wilbur Smith is the bestselling author of many novels, each meticulously researched on his numerous expeditions worldwide. His bestselling Courtney series includes *Assegai*, *The Sound of Thunder*, *Birds of Prey*, *Monsoon*, and *Blue Horizon*. His other books include *Those in Peril*, *River God*, *Warlock*, *The Seventh Scroll*, and *The Sunbird*. His books are now translated into twenty-six languages and have sold over 120 million copies. Smith was born to a British family in Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia, in Central Africa, and attended Rhodes University in South Africa. He has homes in Cape Town, London, Switzerland and Malta.

hardly like his older brother, Konrad, the pompous heir to a stunning fortune and a vocal Nazi sympathizer. Gerhard, for example, becomes friends with a Jewish man and finds himself viewing the world differently than the rest of his family. His relationship with Saffron, though, isn't exactly clear-cut as the two get to know one another. At its core, Smith's novel tells the story of two families with conflicting views and ideologies, both of whom struggle to navigate their way through life. Much like Jeffery Archer's Clifton Chronicles series, Wilbur Smith provides a compelling and vivid snapshot of the time period his characters exist in and what it was like for adolescents growing up in the tension-filled years just before the second world war. As the story's timeline inches closer to World War

II, there are a plethora of cameos, including from Hitler and the first leader of the Muslim Brotherhood. The presence of such prominent historical figures is just one of the things that Smith throws in to help transport readers back in time. The sharp, yet time period-specific dialogue is another strength, something that's been hit-or-miss in some of the author's previous novels. The downside is that *War Cry* is a slow burn, which isn't attractive to all types of readers. Likewise, it's somewhat of a character study and for everything to work as planned readers must care about the Courtney family to become engrossed in the story. Smith is one of the few historical fiction novelists who can pull that off, but even so, some readers may prefer a more thrilling, fast-paced plot. Though it starts out slow, Wilbur Smith's latest novel

shifts the focus from Leon and Eva (his wife) Courtney and makes their daughter the new star. Much of the plot follows Saffron as she grows up, allowing the reader to form a tight bond with the character, who is no doubt being set up to play the main role in the next book, the plot of which is alluded to with a cliffhanger ending.

center bulls-eye shot, *War Cry* does hit its mark. Smith's rich character development and veteran know-how when it comes to creating characters readers can connect with drive the story along, with just enough action and tension to keep readers invested in the plot until the end.

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**A Seminar for Women!**

Women were at a seminar on how to live in a loving relationship with their husbands. The women were asked, "How many of you love your husband?" All the women raised their hands. Then they were asked, "When was the last time you told your husband you loved him?" Some women answered today, a few yesterday, and some couldn't remember. The women were then told to take out their cell phones and text their husband: "I love you, sweetheart." Next the women were instructed to exchange phones with one another and read aloud the text message they received in response to their message. Below are 11 hilarious replies. If you have been married for quite a while, you understand that these replies are a sign of true love. Who else would reply in such a succinct and honest way?

1. Who the hell is this?
2. Eh, mother of my children, are you sick or what?
3. Yeah, and I love you too. What's wrong?
4. What now? Did you wreck the car again?
5. I don't understand what you mean?
6. What the hell did you do now?

**Quotable Quotes on Marriage**

"To find someone who will love you for no reason, and to shower that person with reasons, that is the ultimate happiness." -**Robert Brault**

"The best time to love with your whole heart is always now, in this moment, because no breath beyond the current is promised." -**Fawn Weaver**

"Happily ever after is not a fairy tale. It's a choice." - **Weaver**

"A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person." -**Mignon McLaughlin**

Marriage: Love is the reason. Lifelong friendship is the gift. Kindness is the cause. Til' death do us part is the length." - **Fawn Weaver**

7. Don't beat about the bush, just tell me how much you need?
  8. Am I dreaming?
  9. If you don't tell me who this message is actually for, someone will die.
  10. I thought we agreed you wouldn't drink during the day.
  11. Your mother is coming to stay with us, isn't she?
- "A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers." - **Robert Quillen**
- "Show me a man who is smiling from ear-to-ear and living a beautiful life, and I'll show you a man who is grateful for what he has and utterly in love with his wife." -**Fawn Weaver**
- "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." -**Henry Ford**
- "A great marriage is not when the 'perfect couple' comes together. It is when an imperfect couple learns to enjoy their differences." -**Anon**
- "A great marriage isn't something that just happens; it's something that must be created." -**Fawn Weaver**

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television to ensure they are not shown during family viewing hours. 4. Medical use of marijuana (Health). That VIEW clubs of Australia call on State and Federal Governments to legislate regulatory systems which ensure patient assess to cannabis and cannabis-related drugs to ease their suffering. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, 11th May at Greta Workers Club -10.30 am for 11 am start.

Seventeen Branxton VIEW club ladies enjoyed a very special Friendship day this month. A wonderful local asset, the old Masonic Hall at Greta is now the highly recommended -The Holy Cuppa, Espresso bar and antique shop. Many thanks to Kristy and Lynneve for accommodating us amidst an amazing array of antiques and memorabilia. Lynneve supplied a delicious morning tea complete with excellent coffee. Our Easter Fun day show cased some inventive hat displays and Bethany provided some Easter trivia. The Easter egg raffle proved popular. We welcomed prospective member, Jill Harding to our meeting. Discussions were held on the four resolutions to be debated at the VIEW National Conference to be held at Tamworth in September. The following four motions to be considered were as follows:  
1. Safety first in family law (Domestic Violence). That VIEW Clubs of

Australia urge all State, Territory and Federal Governments to implement the five point plan "Safety first in family" to fix Australia's family law system as outlined by Rosie Batty on 15th June 2016 to the National Press Club as part of the Justice for Kids Campaign.  
2. Transition to post school options for students with disabilities(Education/ Children) That VIEW clubs of Australian Governments at all levels to address the disparity in educational outcomes for students with a disability and continue to support and resource these students to maximize their education potential and transition to meaningful post school pathways such as tertiary education and/or employment.  
3. Gambling advertising on TV (Social)... That VIEW Clubs of Australia call, on State and Federal Governments to regulate gambling advertising on



Peace and love to everyone Photo above: Our Easter Fun day  
Judy Spillard



Our recent Special Friendship Day at Greta

New members and guests always welcome. Please phone our Secretary,

Evelyn on 4938 1513. Enjoy the beautiful Autumn weather.

The Cessnock Local Government Area funding round for ClubGRANTS is now open.

The closing date for applications is 4:00pm, Friday 2 June 2017. ClubGRANTS funding is made available by Local Clubs who earn over \$1 million annually in gaming machine revenue. The grant provides funding for a wide range of local social services and community projects, with the aim of addressing social need and disadvantage in the local community. For more information on ClubGRANTS, including accessing the grant guidelines and the online application form, please visit the Cessnock City Council website: <http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/community/grants/club>

PLEASE NOTE: ClubGRANTS applications will only be accepted using the Clubs NSW website online submission portal. Late applications will not be accepted. The application form is available [here](#). If you received a Club GRANT in 2016 or 2015 you must ensure all funds have been reported and acquitted to the club using the [Standard Report](#) Form before you are eligible to apply for a 2017 grant.

§ ClubGRANTS LOCAL INFORMATION SESSION To assist community groups in applying for funds, an information session will be held on Thursday 27 April 2017 at 10.30am -11.30am, Ante Room, Cessnock City Council.

The information session will provide an:  
· Overview of the Grant Guidelines, including eligibility;  
· Overview of the on-line application form; and  
· Overview of Grant timeline.

If you would like to register to attend the information session, or require any further information please contact me on P: (02) 4993 4258 or email [Jo.Miller@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Jo.Miller@cessnock.nsw.gov.au)



# Branxton Golf Club



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6.00pm Shotgun start



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\$13.00

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31/5/2017



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of 1st game on the day

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Meat, Seafood ,

Fruit & Vegies trays

Win (47) Schooners

Badge Draw \$1300

As at 21/4/2017

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1st Sunday of each Month 4.00pm-6.00pm

Thursday

Badge Draw \$200, at 20/4/2017

Seafood Raffle

Trivia



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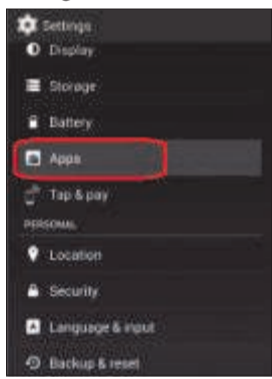
# MOVIE REVIEW

## Going in Style

### TAKE SOME GOOD ADVICE

### Making the Most of Your SD Card

Subra from Rutherford wants to save some of the onboard space on her phone. Subra writes "I have a Samsung Galaxy grand Duos I-19082 phone. The phone memory is almost full. However, space on SD card is hardly used. How do I transfer the applications etc to start from and save to SD card? I just want to free up the phone memory, without losing any usability of apps. Thank you for your help." Thanks for the great question. Moving your apps to your SD card is one way to save space on your phone, and Android actually makes it very easy to do this. The first thing that you'll want to do is go to your settings and open your APPLICATION MANAGER. Sometimes this is also simply called APPS, depending on which version of Android you're running.



Click on APPS or APPLICATION MANAGER and choose the app that you want to move. If the box that says "move to SD card" is grayed out, then you can't move it. If it isn't, then just tap on that and it will automatically move your app.



If you open this app in the application manager again, the box will now say "move to phone". That's all that there is to it! Another great way to save some space on your device is to make sure that your camera is set to save photos to the SD card instead of internal storage, which is also a pretty easy fix. (Screenshots are from

my Galaxy Tab 4 running Lollipop. Your screens may look slightly different, but the instructions still hold.) Please note that if your phone doesn't have an SD card slot, or if you don't have an SD card installed, then the card option will either be absent or will be grayed out. First, open your camera app. Once it's open, choose the SETTINGS option, which usually looks like a cogwheel.



That will open your settings for you. You may have to tap on another cogwheel to open up the general camera settings, the tab of which is noted here with an arrow. Once you do, choose STORAGE or SAVE LOCATION or whatever your particular device has, and choose CARD, MEMORY CARD, EXTERNAL CARD, SD CARD or whatever your particular device displays. I've seen all of these on various Android devices.



I hope that this helps! **Internet Explorer Acting Up? Try This**

Here's a quick tip if you're noticing some issues with Internet Explorer. Maybe it won't seem to load the right page or let you access a form. Perhaps you've got content that won't display. Sometimes clearing the cache is all it takes to stop quirky behavior. Press Ctrl+Shift+Delete. The window below will pop up. I'd suggest checking the box to preserve favourites and website data and choosing to delete temporary Internet files, cookies, and the history. If you're having an issue with old passwords popping up, I'd suggest deleting them and the form data as well. If there's no problem, leave them as



Then click the Delete button. Hopefully, clearing the cache can take care of the problem

### How Your Smart Watch Puts You At Risk & How to Protect Yourself

The first phone with internet capability was released in 1993 by IBM and Bellsouth. Christened the Simon personal communicator phone, the device was designed primarily to allow for portable communication, with secondary purposes relating to the phone's ability to connect to the web. At that time, the mobile nature of the device was perhaps as exciting as its features and uses. Now, nearly 25 years later, consumers have graduated from carrying their tech to actually wearing it. Though wearables are revolutionizing modern life, these internet-equipped accessories can pose significant security risks. Here are the three top tech security concerns about wearables and recommended solutions users can employ to protect themselves from malicious cyberattacks.



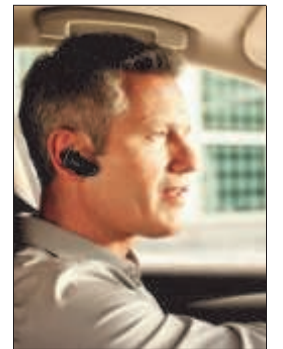
**Data Is Not Encrypted** Wearable tech like smart watches, activity trackers and pulse trackers collect and store data locally. Many of these products make no attempt at encrypting the data or at restricting access to it. Since many of these devices do not ask users for authentication through a password, PIN or biometric security confirmation, anyone who has access to the device has immediate access to the data that device holds. Additionally, this private data is also susceptible to interception while in transit as it is synced with information to be stored on a service

provider or manufacturer cloud servers. This risk is compounded if the user also employs a third-party app since some apps fail to enforce even fundamental security standards; this means the data they store or send is not encrypted either. Users may think that no one is interested in the information their Fitbits collect, but that is precisely the kind of data health insurance providers would love to view before agreeing to uphold a medical insurance policy.



**Solution** – For now, users are responsible for keeping their devices and information safe. However, with more awareness, device manufacturers might be pressured to strengthen security measures and increase data protection. By implementing the requirement of a unique password, as well as the encryption of communications and data storage, to gain access to the device data, privacy would experience an exponential improvement.

**Connectivity Is Not Secure** One of the appeals of using a wearable device is the ease with which it can wirelessly connect to a tablet or smartphone via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth, but this convenience also represents a sizable weakness. A user may find it easier to just leave Bluetooth on at all times to allow for syncing to occur. However, a good number of these wireless communications are not prepared to deal with "brute-force" cyber attacks. Traditionally, hackers seek out and exploit software vulnerabilities to infiltrate a system, but a "brute-force" attack is an attack at multiple points of entry attempting to break into a system by applying a trial and error approach to cracking the login details.



**Solution** – To defend against brute force attacks on a mobile-device-to-wearable connection, users should confirm a connection to a network serving as few devices as

**Synopsis** Oscar winners Morgan Freeman ("Million Dollar Baby"), Michael Caine ("The Cider House Rules," "Hannah and Her Sisters") and Alan Arkin ("Little Miss Sunshine") team up as lifelong buddies Willie, Joe and Al, who decide to buck retirement and step off the straight-and-narrow for the first time in their lives when their pension fund becomes a corporate casualty, in director Zach Braff's comedy GOING IN STYLE. Desperate to pay the bills and come through for their loved ones, the three risk it all by embarking on a daring bid to knock off the very bank that absconded with their money. The film also stars two-time Oscar nominee Ann-Margret ("Tommy," "Carnal Knowledge") as Annie, a grocery cashier who's been checking Al out in more ways than one. Joey King ("Wish I Was Here") stars as Joe's whip-smart granddaughter, Brooklyn; with Oscar nominee Matt Dillon ("Crash") as FBI Agent Hamer; and Christopher Lloyd ("Back to the Future" trilogy) as the guys' lodge buddy, Milton. John Ortiz ("Silver Linings Playbook") also stars as Jesus, a man of unspecified credentials who agrees to show the guys the ropes, and Peter Serafinowicz ("Guardians of the Galaxy") as Joe's former son-in-law, Murphy, whose pot clinic connections may finally prove useful. Zach Braff ("Garden State") directs from a screenplay by Theodore Melfi ("St. Vincent").



**Oldsters rob a bank in a genial heist movie that doesn't quite shortchange you, yet doesn't pay dividends either.**

**By: Dave Calhoun**

Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman, Alan Arkin: The triple-whammy veteran cast that heads up this light-hearted Brooklyn-set heist caper (a remake of a largely forgotten 1979 movie starring George Burns) is just about disarming and charming enough to paper over the film's sketchy story and low energy levels. The three play an aging trio sick of being

kicked around by life in retirement. After one of them, Joe (Caine), finds himself in the middle of a bank holdup thinking he could do better, he and his friends decide to rob the Williamsburg Savings Bank. For much of the movie, the old pals plot and practice, honing the perfect alibi, while director Zach Braff (*Garden State*) leads us on the odd detour into each of their family or romantic lives without ever going deep. The script by Theodore Melfi (*Hidden Figures*) pays lip service to contemporary economic struggles, referencing the squeeze on traditional industries (all three men are former steel work-

ers) and the breakdown of old-age financial relief and family support. But these nods to reality are just as soft as the movie's slapstick tendencies, which include not-very-rib-tickling scenes of shoplifting, and chases involving mobility scooters. And don't think too much about the plot; it's about as water-tight as a corporate-pension scheme. All three stars deliver exactly what you expect from them—nothing more, nothing new—but their onscreen familiarity is a strange comfort in itself.

3/5

possible. **Covert Collection of Data** Not all risks involve the user being exploited for information; the user is also a potential perpetrator of collecting data through the use of wearables. Devices like smartwatches and headgear allow the wearers to record audio, snap photos and film video without being detected. Since this tech is small and innocuous, abuse of these features would be virtually undetectable. Not only would credit card numbers and identification documents be at risk, but anyone with a wearable could monitor the actions

and behaviors of anyone they please.



**Solution** – Companies will need to discuss limiting the capabilities of wearables and forbidding those that pose the highest threat. Businesses and venues may request that patrons disable specific features, or may restrict where wearables are permitted as the risk of monetary and identity theft increases with these capabilities. Proactive

individuals may want to consider a service, like LifeLock, to help protect themselves from identity theft. Twenty-five years ago, when the first mobile computer phone was unveiled, it is unlikely that the developers foresaw the evolution from mobile devices to wearable ones. Like all great innovations, the perks come with drawbacks, but being aware of the risks and planning ahead will mean that users can avoid being exploited and simply enjoy the advancements of technology.



'Let us celebrate the occasion with wine and sweet words' **Plautus**

## ..... enjoying the Hunter Wine lifestyle with Andrew Marsh of Marsh Estate Winery, Pokolbin



This article was first published in 2009

The past nine months or so has been a fairly melancholy experience in our home. Firstly, my uncle passed away suddenly, followed by my beautiful mother and in terribly sad circumstances, Holly's father was recently taken from us. Death is a strange phenomenon. It is really the only inevitable event which will affect all living things at one stage or another, yet when it happens, it feels so foreign. The shock, the angst, the disappointment, the horror, the sadness... the disbelief! When a loved one passes on, the world literally becomes a place 'you used to know'. You can't quite believe that people are still driving around, going to work, eating in cafes, playing golf, getting on with their lives whilst yours seems to stand still (or fall in around you). Then the roller-coaster ride of emotion begins. Everyone reacts differently to death. There is no textbook behaviour and every day is a new day.

Consequently, there has been a lot of soul-searching of late. During this time you confront yourself on a new level and tend to questions which have previously been pushed aside. I guess the most suitable word here is 'priority'. It is an opportunity to assess your priorities. Again, one word seems to hold pride of place on top of the list of priorities - family! Twelve months ago, the Hunter Valley Wine Industry Association created a promotional advertising campaign. It is not a campaign promoting a style of wine. It is not a campaign promoting a geographical part of the Hunter Valley. It is not a campaign to supersede the other wine producing regions of Australia. Simply titled 'Hunter Valley - We are Family', one could perceive this as a clever play on something we mark as our priority in life.

Forgive me for stating the bleeding obvious but advertising slogans are designed to attract a market. Most, not all, but most are captioned with glossed-over half truths or catchy one-liners in order to penetrate into our vulnerable psyches (or more to the point - wallets!). Despite the overwhelmingly convincing 'evidence'..... does Coke 'Add Life'? Does Vegemite put the rose in every cheek? Does Berocca give you back your B-B-Bounce and can you eat a Milky Way between meals without ruining your appetite?

So the question remains, is this simply another one-liner to spark some market share? Family is not a word taken lightly. Family is about closeness, togetherness, support and love. It is the essence of a complete fulfilment in human lives. It's what drives us to create a better world. It is the most important facet of most of our lives. To brand an area or a community of people as a 'family' is either a gracious and enlightening compliment or a disgraceful misuse of a value we hold so dearly.

Having a thorough knowledge of our area throughout my life, I can only tell it from my point of view as far back as I can remember. The Valley was very different back then. The roads were all gravel, only a handful of wineries existed, the only place to stay or eat was in Cessnock or Bellbird or Maitland. Fortified wines were still very much in demand and residual sugar featured heavily in 'Moselle' styled wines. We called our semillon 'Hunter River Riesling' and our shiraz 'Hermitage'. Hock and Claret even graced labels. The pioneering families of Tyrrell, Tulloch and Drayton featured heavily and steered the ship towards an unknown future. This was the Hunter Valley, a small winemaking community, which extended into the upper reaches of Denman and surrounding areas.

Throughout the seventies my brothers and I were too young to appreciate the virtues of community spirit. It wasn't until the very early eighties that I saw for the first time, a community in a desperate situation. In the midst of one of the worst droughts for many years, our small winemaking community found ourselves in a little church in Broke, praying for rain. My brothers and I became bored and began to play up, only to be hit hard on the back of the head with a hymn book. I turned to see a rotable Brian McGuigan, his large, towering figure as serious as I had ever seen him. It was the exact moment I realised the seriousness of a dire situation and I will never

forget the look on Brian's face as long as I live.

Family is about support. The Valley was there when Brian and Fay's daughter Vanessa, lost her battle with cancer. We were there when Reg and Pam Drayton were taken from us. We were there when Ed Joualt battled on, yet lost his life after a car accident. We were there when Al Sutherland and Peter Wright lost their battle with depression and we were there when Trevor Drayton was tragically taken from us.

Family is about togetherness. We were there at all the wine show dinners at Singleton when political guest speakers would bore the pants off us and everyone would be rolling drunk on the bus trip back to Pokolbin, where newly won trophies would be rolling around on the floor of the bus. We were there at the infamous ACI luncheons where ..... hold on ..... can't quite remember! We were there at all the restaurant openings in the Valley, all the lunches and dinners, birthday parties, christenings, weddings, the Pokolbin Reds rugby games and functions. Whatever the occasion, we are there with bells on.

Family is about growth. We were there when the area took a massive growth spurt in the early to mid nineties, bringing new and interesting people to an ever-growing destination. We were there when younger winemakers got married and gave life to a new generation of winemakers and consequently grandchildren to an older generation of winemakers.

Family is about sharing. We were and are always there to help our neighbour, exchange winemaking knowledge and viticultural practices. We are there to lend a hand for all our community responsibilities and engagements. We were there when Wine Hunter Marketing and the Hunter Valley Vineyard Association historically merged to create an impressive community-based organisation in the Hunter Valley Wine Industry Association.

Family is not all a big bowl full of fruit. Families argue; families envy; families fight; families side; families cry. The good in families would not be as good without the flaws. Flaws make us human. Mistakes make us human. Families could not exist without them.

The winemaking community of the Hunter Valley has changed a lot since I was a kid and it will continually change well into the future. The stories of the all the characters and the great winemaking feats are all kept alive and well. We have overcome some extremely difficult hurdles to get where we are and for that we are proud people, but most importantly.....we've had fun!

A week before my mother passed away, I ran into Brian McGuigan. He asked me how Mum was and I half-heartedly alluded that she wasn't very well. The great, towering figure of Brian McGuigan held his arms out straight and placed his hands on my shoulders. He looked me straight in the eyes and placed great pressure on my shoulders with his big hands. He then offered me the biggest, warmest smile and his eyes told a thousand stories, yet he said nothing. It was one of the most comforting moments of my life and I will never forget that moment as long as I live.

Whatever you believe is up to you. If you think Coke adds life - that's fine. If you believe that Vegemite puts the rose in your cheeks - sensational. One thing I will tell you however, is that the wine community of the Hunter Valley has been built over a long period. People come and people go but the incredible and unique culture we have created is testament to our will to stick together. We eat together. We drink together. We laugh together. We cry together. We are family!

Cheers,  
Andrew

THE NEWS No.452 WED 26 April 2017 19

You can e-mail, fax or simply drop your or into our office:- 12 Cliff Street, Branxton or Fax: 4938 3301 or E-mail: [thenews@holkey.net.au](mailto:thenews@holkey.net.au)  
All contributions welcome

and

To the arrogant old man who abused me for having a sticker he didn't like on the back of my car. He also had the temerity to complain about someone pulling their car out in front of him & raged about it ... think about who the psychopath is as you are the one abusing the populace! By the way, as my sticker says.. 'eat S\_T'.

TO the Cessnock City Council slasher operator who mowed the footpath in North Rothbury last week; there were 6 newly planted shrubs/trees that you slashed. I could understand it happening if they were hidden by the grass but that wasn't the case. Each one had a high marker stick & a white poly cylinder delineating each planting. Many years ago I did watch a similar incidence when they slashed 2, almost extinct, persoonia plants on Wine Country Drive verge near North Rothbury. Could it be the same culprit(?). Tidy Town members replanted last weekend.

TO the people seen picking up rubbish along Wine Country Drive between North Rothbury & Tuckers Lane last weekend.

TO the person who ran over the feral fox on Wine Country Drive last weekend. You left it in great pain. Wicked & cruel!

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**Computer Tuition:** From basics to highly skilled & learn all about ebay. P: 0429 381 908

**Computer Services:** Repairs, Sales & Service. Phone repairs. Comtronics P: 4991 1128

**For Rent:** Branxton RSL Hall, air conditioned. Short or long term. P: 0429 438 460

**For Sale:** Black mesh security door \$50 & sandstone letterbox \$30 P: 0423 366 977

**Garage Sale:** Saturday 29.04.17 8am-3pm 7 McMullins Road Branxton. Massive clean out sale. Huge variety of quality items at bargain prices including Vintage, Retro & Antique Collectables, General Household & Decor, Bric-a-Brac & so much more.

**For Sale:** Free range eggs. \$4/doz Greta 0412 976 809

**Guitar Lessons:** Branxton. Limited places available. Please inquire soon. P 4938-3380 or 0409-038-271.

**Microchipping:** Cats and Dogs, all sizes and breeds, will come to you. \$20 per animal, please call Angela on 0431649947.

**Mobile Travel Agent:** 20 yrs experience. Will come to you for expert holiday planning. Obligation free appointments. P: 1300 365 68 (ext 595) M: 0404 831 867  
W: [www.mtatravel.com.au/sfenton](http://www.mtatravel.com.au/sfenton)  
E: [sfenton@mtatravel.com.au](mailto:sfenton@mtatravel.com.au)

**Fitness Classes:** 'Core & Strength'. Get fit. Classes are 6am and 10am Tuesday, 6am and 8am Thursday, at Miller Park Branxton \$12/class. Text/Phone Louise P: 0439 383 478

**Riding Lessons:** agjstment, horses trained. [www.byalee.net](http://www.byalee.net) 0407 453 494

**Share accommodation:** Close to transport & shops, quiet street Branxton; off street parking. \$150p/w includes power & water P: 0423 288 067

**Share House:** Fully furnished, double bedroom, Built-ins, ceiling fan, Air Con, very quiet. \$165/week. P: 0413 896 866

**Wanted:** high quality mechanical wrist watches & clocks. Keen collector. Willing to pay good prices. Prefer Rolex, Omega, Oris & Tag. P: 0414 757 826

**Wanted:** all kinds of Honda mini bikes qa50 z50a z50j1 z50jz ct70 st70 & atc70. Contact Drew 0435814841

**Work Wanted:** Need an extra hand? I do all maintenance, labouring, construction, asbestos & have working with children licence. P (Pat) 0414 278 292

**Work Wanted:** Lawn Mowing; best rates - large or small area. P: 0459 123 397

**Work Wanted:** Lawns mowed, rubbish removal & slashing. Also 'Bobcat' work, trenching & post hole boring & general maintenance & handyman work. Phone Steve on 4938 3601

**Work Wanted:** HORSE CLIPPING - PERFORMANCE READY. Hunter Valley & Central Coast. Phone Caron 0416 128 701

**Work Wanted:** Lawns properties, mowing, trimming, removals, maintenance. Paul 0478103814 or 49987567

**Work Wanted:** Sick of cleaning, cooking dinner, washing. Call me! Taking bookings now. Professional and reliable service. Sue 0497257081

**Work Wanted:** Rural Fencing (TW & A Hollingshed) P: 4998 1583 or Trevor on 0429 320 787 for quotes.

**Work Wanted:** experienced baby sitter looking for work. Very reliable P: 0458 606 804

**Work Wanted:** Lawn & Garden Maintenance, P: 4938 3153

**Work Wanted:** Piano teacher available to give lessons P: Phil Aughey on 0447 381 989

**Work Wanted:** Let me clean your home. Great references & rates (min 3 hours) P: 4990 2936

**Work Wanted:** Contract stock work with horses & dogs. Design & building wooden stock yards - rural fencing P Shaun: 0416 226 538



**For Sale:** 2015 Mondeo Trend TDI. (first reg. Sept 2015). One owner, 17k's, fully optioned, 4 cyl 2L diesel, turbo charged, fully serviced with full history. In 'as new' condition. Asking \$32,500 ono (Approx \$45k new) P: 0405 833 985

### The "For your Diary" section of The News is a FREE community service.

**Dates for your diary >**

**Wed 26 April** - first day of Term 2 for students  
**Thur 27 April** - Cessnock Prostate Cancer Support Group meeting Cessnock Leagues Club 3pm. Guest- Jenny Noblet from The Hunter Melanoma Foundation.  
**1 May to 30 June 2017** - Hunter Valley Wine and Food Festival  
**Tues 2 May** - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
**Tues 9 May** - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
**Tues 16 May** - Aust. Biggest Morning Tea hosted by B/G CWA, Branxton Community Hall, 10.00 for 10.30am, Scones, Cakes and Slices, \$10 per person, Bookings Essential for catering purposes. Marie 0402015850  
**Fri 19 May** - The Australian Bee Gees Show. The Saturday Night Fever 40th Anniversary tour: The Australian Bee Gees Show are digging out their flares and dusting off their platform shoes in preparation for the Australian leg of their 2017 world tour - so let the party begin! Cessnock Performing ARTS Centre  
**Sun 21 May** - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm  
**Tues 6 June** - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
**Tues 13 June** - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
**Sun 21 Jun** - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm  
**Thur 4 Jul** - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
**Tues 11 Jul** - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
**Sun 16 Jul** - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm  
**Tues 1 Aug** - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club

**Dates for your diary >**

**Tues 8 Aug** - "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start  
**Tues 08 Aug** - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
**Sun 20 Aug** - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm  
**Tues 5 Sept** - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
**Tues 12 Sept** - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
**Sun 17 Sep** - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm  
**Tue 3 Oct** - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
**Tue 10 Oct** - "Night Time Bingo" at Greta Workers Club 7pm start  
**Tues 10 Oct** - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
**Sun 15 Oct** - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm  
**Tues 7 Nov** - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
**Tues 14 Nov** - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
**Sun 19 Nov** - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm  
**Tues 5 Dec** - Lions Club of Branxton monthly meeting; 4pm at Branxton Golf Club  
**Tues 12 Dec** - B/G CWA Staff Room, old St Brigids School, Station St, Branxton  
**Sun 17 Dec** - St Brigid's Markets 9am ~ 1pm

Hunter Valley Vineyards Concerts  
 21 October 2017 Opera in the Vineyards



Saturday 1 April saw the Drovers Camp Restaurant at Branxton host a Maitland Rotary Club 'Murder Mystery Dinner' to raise funds for Juvenile Diabetes & The Cancer Council. The evening raised just on \$7000 which was divided equally between the two organisations. The President of Maitland Rotary Club, Earl Heckman, said the evening was a major success and thanked all those who supported the evening. "A special thanks to Neil Jones who donated the venue for the evening & those who provided raffle items & auction items," said Earl. "The **Matilda Motor Inn Dubbo** for a nights accommodation in a family executive suite, **Dubbo Zoo** for a family pass, **Robert Jones** for wine supplied for the raffle & auction, **David Hook of David Hook Wines** for wine supplied for the auction & **Kim & Mike Starkey from the Royal Federal Hotel Branxton** for their very generous donation of a dinner for six. I must also mention those who volunteered their thespian services for the Murder Mystery," said Earl. Well done all!!!

# Rotary Club "Murder Mystery" evening raises \$7000 for Juvenile Diabetes & The Cancer Council



Dead on the ground! The first murder; there were two. Which confused almost all



Val Randal from Greta enjoying the evening



Robert & Cathy Jones from Branxton



The cast



Wonderful apparel for a the Roaring 20's theme



Mark Stanford , from North Rothbury, & partner Sue enjoying the evening



A bevy of beauties with one exception! Alan McCudden from Kurri trying to spoil the shot





**Tocal Field Days**

When: **5th May 2017 - 7th May 2017**  
 Where: **Tocal Agricultural Centre 815 Tocal Road, Paterson**  
 Contact: **02 4939 8820**

**Details**  
 Hunter Local Land Services is a major sponsor of Tocal Field Days. Come along and have a chat to our staff in the Land, Plants and Environment area. Information sessions running across the three days include:  
 Are you Flood Ready?, SES large animal rescue, Foxes, ferals and free range chickens - camera trapping for wildlife and pest monitoring, Landcare, Devil Ark storytelling and Aboriginal cultural dance activities for the kids.  
 Full details and tickets are available on the [Tocal Field Days website](#).

**Indigenous fire management and rejuvenation of degraded farm land**

When: **20th May 2017 9:00am-2:00pm**  
 Where: **St Anne's Hall Church Street, Gresford**  
 Contact: **Julia Wokes 0419 127 404**

**Details**  
 The Gresford District Landcare Group are holding a field day with support from Hunter Local Land Services. The day will include a demonstration of a cool burn and will address issues associated with soil and vegetation and fire methods.  
 Richard Jones from the RFS will cover fire rules and regulations  
 Agronomist Neil Griffiths will talk about the effect of fire on soil and pastures  
 David Ahoy and local elders will describe the tradition and the process of a cool burn  
 Harry Rose will talk about native pasture regeneration after fire  
 To RSVP contact Julia Wokes, Secretary of the Gresford District Landcare Group, on 0419 127 404 or email [juliawokes@hotmail.com](mailto:juliawokes@hotmail.com)

**Caring for the Land – An Aboriginal Perspective**

When: **20th May 2017 9:20am-4:30pm**  
 Where: **Winda Woppa Reserve, Hawks Nest**  
 Contact: **Kara 0403 809 949**

**Details**  
 You are invited to undertake a Worimi Cultural Experience on the 20th May with Uncle Paul Callaghan. We will precede the cultural activities by helping a local landcare group tackle the coastal weed- bitou bush.

Tickets: \$15  
**Itinerary:**  
 9:20am- Meet at Winda Woppa Reserve Parking (first, eastern carpark)  
 9:30am-11:30am- Bitou weed removal with the Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Bitou Busters  
 11:30am-12:30pm- Lunch provided at a local cafe and shower/change at the surfclub if needed.  
 12:30pm- Meet Uncle Paul Callaghan at the end of Beach Road, Hawkesnest.  
 4:30pm- Official activities end. You may head home or choose to stay at one of the beautiful local campsites

**What to bring?**  
 Water for the whole day  
 Weather protection/bush protection (hat/long sleeves/rain jacket)  
 Spare pair of clothes for the afternoon (optional)

**Securing your spot**  
 This event is a unique opportunity, and has a limit of 15 people. Therefore we ask you contribute \$15 to secure your place, and let us know if your place becomes available.

**Cultural afternoon**  
 The cultural tour will involve walking Hawks Nest Beach and part of Yacaaba Headland with Paul providing a number of cultural activities and insights including:

- Smoking Ceremony
- Welcome to Country
- Understanding the importance of country
- Connection to country meditation
- Descriptions of important plants and their uses
- Outline of traditional and contemporary Worimi history
- Participation in Aboriginal dance
- Participation in a blessing ceremony

Paul is an author of a book on achieving well-being through understanding traditional culture, philosophy and spirituality in addition to being a consultant, former executive and former surveyor involved in a number of land management activities.  
 Contact Kara on 0403 809 949 for more information or [book your tickets online](#).

**Blood On The Track**



**The Seventeen Easter million dollar yearlings**

**\$2,500,000**, Lot 333 Bay Colt Redoute's Choice – Secluded, by Hussonet (USA), Arrowfield Stud, Scone (As Agent), T Stakemire, Vic.  
**\$2,400,000**, Lot 178 Bay Colt Medaglia d'Oro (USA) – Hoss Amor, by General Nediym, Yarraman Park, Scone (As Agent), Coolmore/Stonestreet/Aquis, Blue Sky Bloodstock (FBAA)/Unifaith, NSW.  
**\$1,800,000**, Lot 87 Bay Filly Redoute's Choice – Court, by Anabaa (USA), Newhaven Park, Boorowa (As Agent), T Stakemire, Vic.  
**\$1,700,000**, Lot 310 Bay Filly Snitzel – Response, by Charge Forward, Arrowfield Stud, Scone (As Agent), Emirates Park Pty Ltd/B Carlson, NSW.

Carlson, NSW.  
**\$1,700,000**, Lot 395 Bay Colt Snitzel – Top Cuban, by Anabaa (USA), Arrowfield Stud, Scone (As Agent), George Moore Bloodstock, Hong Kong.  
**\$1,600,000**, Lot 71 Brown Colt I Am Invincible – Captivating Claire (NZ), by O'Reilly (NZ), Segenhoe Stud Australia, Scone (As Agent), James Harron Bloodstock Pty Ltd, NSW.  
**\$1,500,000**, Lot 376 Brown Colt I Am Invincible – Streetcar Stella, by Blevic, Widden Stud, Widden Valley (As Agent), Aquis/Blue Sky Bloodstock (FBAA), Qld.  
**\$1,400,000**, Lot 372 Bay Colt Sebring- Stella Vinia, by Redoute's Choice, Segenhoe Stud, Scone (As Agent for Fairway Thoroughbreds), Spendthrift Australia Pty Ltd, Vic.  
**\$1,250,000**, Lot 298 Bay Colt

Not A Single Doubt – Quiet Maggy (USA), by Quiet American, Arrowfield Stud, Scone (As Agent), Domeland Pty Ltd, NSW.  
**\$1,200,000**, Lot 294 Brown Filly Exceed and Excel – Prophet Jewel, by Encosta de Lago, Middlebrook Valley Lodge, Scone (As Agent), Hawkes Racing, NSW.  
**\$1,150,000**, Lot 141 Bay Filly Fastnet Rock – Fleur De'Here, by Dehere (USA), Newgate Farm, Aberdeen (As Agent), Cloud 9 Thoroughbreds, Vic.  
**\$1,000,000**, Lot 65 Bay Colt Written Tycoon – Brilliant Bisc, by Elvstroem, Turangga Farm, Scone (As Agent), James Harron Bloodstock Pty, NSW.  
**\$1,000,000**, Lot 207 Bay Filly Zoustar – Listen Here, by Elusive Quality (USA), Edinglassie Stud, Muswellbrook (As Agent), Bruce Perry Bloodstock, NZ.  
**\$1,000,000**, Lot 267 Bay Filly Exceed and Excel – Nureyev's Girl, by Nureyev, Bhima Thoroughbreds, Scone (As Agent), Moody Racing Pty Ltd, Vic.  
**\$1,000,000**, Lot 354 Bay Colt Snitzel – Slice of Paradise, by Encosta de Lago, Arrowfield

**Detailed saleyard report**



**Saleyard report - cattle**

**Singleton** report date 19/4/17

Yarding 1040 ~ **Change 660** (Comparison Date 12/4/17)  
 With the previous market cancelled due to the Easter break, numbers more than tripled, as the quality in the penning was very good. The bulk of the yarding entered the vealer categories, with yearlings limited in supply, while the older steers and cows were scarce in the pens. The market trend was firm to dearer, compared to the market held a fortnight ago. The medium weight 200-280kg vealer steers returning to the paddock improved 3c making from 370c to 444c, as the lighter end topped at 469c/kg. The same weight heifer portion also to restocker and backgrounder orders gained 15c and ranged from 355c to 408c/kg. The lighter end of the yearling steers to the restockers sold close to firm, ranging from 364c to 385c, with the heavier drafts topping at 384c/kg. The yearling heifers were generally lighter weights and those to the restockers lifted 10c, making from 329c to 360c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butchers sold to strong competition, with the best at 395c/kg. The cows maintained firm prices, with the plainer 2 scores averaging 221c, as the better finished heavy weights sold at 225c/kg. Heavy weight bulls topped at 242c/kg.



**Score** report date 18/4/17

Yarding N/A  
 The Easter holiday break produced a smaller penning of fair to good quality cattle, with the bulk entering the younger categories. There were around 75 cows in the offering, with the usual buyers competing in a firm to dearer market. The medium and heavier weighted vealer steers to the restockers lifted 4c to 7c, as the over 200kg pens made from 396c to 450c/kg. The heifer portion also to the restockers remained firm at 346c to 380c/kg. Yearling steers gained 3c to 5c, with the medium weights to lot feeder orders ranging from 346c to 380c/kg. There were only breed and quality related price changes recorded for the yearling heifers, with the lighter end selling from 333c to 372c/kg. The prime conditioned younger cattle to the butcher orders topped at 379c/kg. The best 2 tooth steers to feed reached 354c, as the heifer portion to restockers and lot feeder orders ranged from 292c to 308c/kg. Cows maintained firm prices, as the plainer 2 scores averaged 226c, with the better covered heavy weights making from 230c to 235c/kg. Heavy weight bulls reached 245c/kg.



**TRLX Tamworth** report date 10/4/17

Yarding 2019  
 Consignments lifted with a gap in sales due to next week's Easter holiday. There was a limited supply of well finished heavy grown steers and heifers, however cows and young cattle were well represented. The overall quality of the offering was good with condition generally forward to well-finished. A full field of buyers were again in attendance with demand remaining high. Market trends varied through the young cattle with both breed and quality variations having some impact on prices. That was the case in the cheaper market trend for weaner steers under 330kg. Heavier weights, into the feeder range sold on a firm to dearer market trend. Heifer weaners to restockers sold to a dearer trend of 4c to 6c/kg. Well finished vealers to the trade sold to a cheaper trend. There was little change in the market for medium weight yearling steers to restockers. Heavy yearling steers to both restockers and feedlotters sold to a slightly dearer trend, however there were odd sales as much as 8c/kg dearer. Medium weight yearling heifers to restock and feed sold to a cheaper trend, averaging 11c to 12c/kg down. Heavy grown steers sold to a dearer trend to the processors with both age and breed a contributing factor. Medium weight cows remained firm while the well finished heavy weights sold to a slightly cheaper trend. Heavy bulls were dearer.



**Former shuttlers provide first winner of two \$10million races**

WHEN American 4-year-old Arrogate overcame a tardy start and difficulties in running and still recorded a dominant win in the Dubai World Cup over 2000m on March 25, he became the first performer in world history to win two races at \$10million or more.

This is the traditional value of the Dubai Cup, the world's richest race until this title was usurped by the inauguration at January 28 of the \$12million Pegasus World Cup Invitational over 2000m. It too was

won untroubled by Arrogate, cruising home 4 3/4 lengths clear of his nearest rival. Arrogate has now contested nine races, all on dirt, for eight wins and US\$17,084,600, a record for an American. It is the third highest earnings in world racing, headed narrowly by Japanese performers Orfevre and Gentildonna. Also winner of the American Breeders' Cup Classic and the Travers Stakes (new track record), the Juddmonte Farms raced Arrogate is a grey bred on a sire cross of two horses who shuttled to Australia, Unbridled's Song (by Mr. Prospector grandson Unbridled) and Distorted Humor (by the Mr. Prospector sire Forty Niner and from a Danzig

mare). A Breeder's Cup Juvenile and Florida Derby winner, Unbridled's Song visited Arrowfield in 1997, 98 and 99, leaving about 170 potential runners, and Distorted Humor, a dual Group 2 winner, came out to Grand Lodge, Avenel, Vic in 1999 and 2000 for 120 foals. Arrogate's third dam, Meadow Star, was a great galloper whose six Group 1 wins included the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Stakes. Historically, she can be traced back to 1850 born Miss Agnes, ancestress also of world breed shapers Bahram and the brothers Sir Gallahad and Bull Dog, products of Plucky Liege, a daughter of the Carbine English Derby winner Spearmint.





# HEARD IT THROUGH the GRAPEVINE



with Jo Thomas, General Manager HVWTA

## NEW DESTINATION WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association unveils a new destination website for the region –

[winecountry.com.au](http://winecountry.com.au)  
This exciting new platform was launched last week by HVWTA following months of development and provides the Hunter Valley with a regional portal to provide tourism, local community and business services. The new mobile responsive website enhances the visitor experience whilst planning their trip to the Hunter Valley. Visitors can create tailored itineraries, access live online availability for accommodation and tours using Bookey, view interactive maps and video

content. Other new features include the implementation of a social media aggregator tool which publishes user generated content across the website, providing authentic stories on our region. A robust digital strategy will also be implemented to drive consumers to Hunter Valley's new regional website. We look forward to promoting our members to visitors on our new digital platform which contributes to increasing the visitor economy.

### BURNING OF THE VINES CAMPAIGN

Hunter Valley conference guests to join ancient harvest tradition this May and June. Based on the success of last year's campaign, conference guests at major properties in the Hunter Valley, will take part in an ancient harvest tradition, only during May and June, to symbolically burn disappointments of the previous financial year and ignite positive goals for the next.

Celebrated during vintage in European vineyards since ancient times, the Burning of the Vines ritual celebrates the end of the grape harvest and the start of the new season's budburst, with

grapevine cuttings burnt in huge bonfires to symbolise rebirth.

As part of the Hunter Valley Wine and Food Festival this May and June, conference delegates at participating accommodation properties, will receive a vine cutting along with a blank card upon arrival. Guests are encouraged to write any disappointing issues that they want to 'burn away' and what hopes and aspirations they have for the coming year. During the evening, guests then place their cuttings and cards into a bonfire or a fire pit at the property to farewell the old and toast the new.

This unique experience will be offered to all conference bookings made for this May and June at Chateau Elan at the Vintage, Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley, Estate Tuscany Resort, Hunter Valley Resort, Oaks Cypress Lakes Resort, The Sebel Kirkton Park and Mercure Resort Hunter Valley Gardens. Larger groups can also choose to have a Winemaker join them during the Burning of the Vines ritual to discuss the significance of the ritual and the cycle of vintages in the Hunter, whilst enjoying Hunter Valley wines.

The Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association's Marketing Committee Chairman, Phil Hele, said the timing of the vine burning ceremony in May and June would align well with companies meeting to reflect on the previous financial year and planning for the next.

"The Burning of the Vines is a colourful, meaningful and memorable way for delegates to personally engage with the traditions and cycles of the Hunter Valley vineyards and also help themselves and their companies evolve and grow in a new financial year," Mr Hele said. "We believe this new activity will prove very popular."

The General Manager of The Sebel Kirkton Park, Belinda Paterson, said the properties had collaborated together to offer the inaugural Burning of the Vines ceremony to conference delegates. We are excited to see the success of last year's campaign and offer this annually going forward during May & June. "Vintage is an exciting time in Australia's premier wine region and the Burning of the Vines has been a symbol of renewal for centuries so this year, for the participating properties in the Hunter Valley, we have offered our conference guests a unique insight into what is a ritual for our viticulturists," Ms Paterson said. "We are certain the experience of gathering like this around a roaring fire and discussing the goals for the future into the flames will be a moving and rewarding one for guests and a highlight of each conference."



The Burning of the Vines experience will be a complimentary activity for guests attending conferences this May and June. Bookings can be made with each property at [www.winecountry.com.au/conferences/burning-of-the-vines](http://www.winecountry.com.au/conferences/burning-of-the-vines)

### HUNTER VALLEY WINE & TOURISM ASSOCIATION SCORES MORE THAN 30 PIECES OF EDITORIAL!

The Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association (HVWTA) has scored 32 pieces of editorial with national online and radio over the last two months with 21 pieces in April alone. The HVWTA has recently engaged Newcastle PR Agency House of Airlie to assist our marketing team to promote the Hunter Valley and to facilitate families with key local and national media from wine, food and lifestyle online and print publications. The objective is to mostly promote upcoming events including Hunter Valley Wine and Food Festival in May and June, Legends Awards on the 25<sup>th</sup> May and last weekend's successful event, Hunter Uncorked Avalon. The media coverage is a vital part of promoting these events to consumers

and building awareness of the Hunter Valley brand. The HVWTA and House of Airlie also organised 'The Locavore Trail Media Famil' during March and April, whereby Australia's top food writers from Delicious, The Australian, QANTAS Magazine, QF Travel Insider and the Sunday Telegraph, visited the Hunter Valley to discover some of our region's culinary and wine legends. They were taken behind the scenes into Hunter Valley farm gardens, kitchens and the lives of arguably some of Australia's most innovative chefs and local producers. We are excited what upcoming editorial this unique famil will bring in the coming months.

### NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Nominations are now open for NSW Tourism Awards. The NSW Tourism Awards celebrate and acknowledge tourism businesses that have demonstrated outstanding achievement and success throughout the year. We strongly encourage all Wine and Tourism operators to apply, providing great exposure for your business and Hunter Valley Wine Country. If you have any

questions regarding application process, please do not hesitate to contact the HVWTA on 02 4990 0900. JETSTAR AIRLINES VISIT Earlier this month, HVWTA hosted key decision makers from Jetstar Airlines in conjunction with Newcastle Airport. The delegates from Jetstar make decisions around where Jetstar Aircraft fly in and out of. The famil effectively demonstrated to Jetstar that we have a desirable leisure destination and strengthens the relationship between Newcastle Airport and HVWTA. The HVWTA will be following up with the Jetstar Marketing team to share information on the upcoming Hunter Valley Wine & Food Festival and future opportunities to promote the Hunter Valley as primary destination.

• Photo Above: Eduardo Montero - Network Planning Manager, Jo Thomas - General Manager HVWTA, Allan Woo - Airlines and Partnerships Manager Newcastle Airport, Dominic Bates - Senior Network Analyst New Zealand, Sam Henderson - Commercial and Aviation Relationship Manager and Marta Pajak - Senior Network Analyst Domestic.

**Mother's DAY**  
SUNDAY 14 MAY  
**BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER**  
COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF BUBBLY FOR EVERY MUM  
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL P 49381335

**LIVE MUSIC IN MAY**  
**FRI & SAT NIGHTS FROM 8.30PM**

FRI 5TH	CRAWFISH STEW
SAT 6TH	SUN HILL DRIVE
FRI 12TH	HORNET
SAT 13TH	GUERRILLA RADIO
FRI 19TH	JADE HOLLAND BAND
SAT 20TH	HUMMINGBIRDS
FRI 26TH	LOKO
SAT 27TH	EVERGREEN

WWW.ROYALFEDERAL.COM.AU 49381335



# SPORTS RESULTS



## Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 13-4-17 Stableford

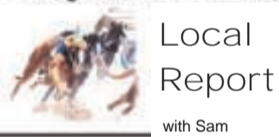
Div 1 Winner G Gazzard 29 pts(c/b) R/u R Hebbe 29 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> G Anderson 28 pts  
Div 2 Winner B Hain 33 pts (SOD) R/u B Turner 31 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> B Smith 31 pts (c/b)  
Ladies Winner N Craig 30 pts R/u T Martin 27 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R Friis 18 pts  
NTPs Ladies R Friis  
Gents G Scobie

Members draw - Not won  
Conditions were good for the 26 players that turned up for a round of golf. A warm overcast day clearing to a sunshine providing excellent playing conditions. Congratulations to Bob Hain on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". Well done to other winners and placegetters.

## Branxton Veteran Golfers Results 20-4-17 18 hole Par 3 Stableford

Div 1 Winner K Anderson 62 pts R/u G Anderson 57 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> R Chenery 56 pts  
Div 2 Winner L Bootes 64 pts (SOD) R/u R McMillan 63 pts 3<sup>rd</sup> P Tracey 58 pts  
Ladies Winner R McCarthy 63 pts R/u C Hocking 62 pts (c/b) 3<sup>rd</sup> F Oakes 62 pts  
NTPs Ladies R McCarthy  
Gents L Bootes

## Greyhound Racing...



Greta's Kevin Keegan or PA as he is best known had a beautiful white and black bitch called Beth. She raced under the name of KISS ME MILO at Wyong, Cessnock and Singleton 13yrs ago and only managed 3 wins at Singleton, so Pa decided to retire her. His son Peter was convinced she wouldn't make a good broodbitch and arranged for a lady friend to take Beth for a pet, but Pa had



## with Mark Bercini

**Grand Finals**  
Greta/Branxton United Cricket Club's second and fourth grade blue teams contested the Cessnock District grand finals last Saturday, with both teams unfortunately going down in close matches. Second grade were pipped at the post by Supporters Club at Carmichael Park. Sent in to bat and missing regular

Members draw - Not won 35 members gathered for a round of golf on a glorious Autumn day. Our "Fun Day", a 18 hole par 3 Event, which was enjoyed by all, though the scoring had one or two puzzled. Never the less it was a change of routine and well worth the effort of adding it to our calendar. Congratulations to Lester Bootes on winning his division and achieving the "Score of the Day". A well done to other winners and placegetters.

LN Bootes,  
Hon Sec

## Branxton Lady Golfers

Monthly Medal was held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April  
Winner Toy Martin with 72 Nett which included a birdie on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Runner Up was Caren Caldwell with 78 Nett  
Nearest to the pin was Toy Martin  
Toy also tired in the least putts with Jan Scobie with 30 Putts  
This week (19/4/17) was a Stableford event.

Winner with 38 points Trish McMillan  
Runner Up with 33 points Caren Caldwell  
Third place with 31 was Carol Miller.  
Nearest to the Pin was Jen Salna  
Birdies to Trish McMillan on 4<sup>th</sup> and Carol Miller on 14<sup>th</sup>

## Branxton Golf Club ~ Sat 15 April Stableford

A GRADE WINNER Phillip Carter 41 pts  
A GRADE RUNNER UP Michael Simpson 38 pts c/b  
A GRADE THIRD Joshua Tracey 38 pts

B GRADE WINNER Stephen Ross 39 pts c/b  
B GRADE RUNNER UP Ronald Hebbe 39 pts  
B GRADE THIRD Neil Jordan 38 pts  
C GRADE WINNER Dave Ison 43 pts  
C GRADE RUNNER UP Lennard Porter 36 pts c/b  
C GRADE THIRD Richard Turnbull 36 pts  
BALL COMP ~ 33 pts  
NTP

J Willard 135 cm  
J Tracey 57 cm  
J Burgess 69 cm  
S Kearney 270 cm  
Phil Carter returned to form by winning Saturday's A Grade with an excellent 41 pts. When asked how he went he said he said he played terribly—he was right, he played terribly good! He finished well clear of Michael Simpson's 38 pts and Joshua Tracey with the same score. Joshua's round also included the shot of the day with his tee shot on the 4<sup>th</sup> finishing only 57 cms away. Steve Ross is really enjoying the holidays judging by his 39 pts to win B Grade, a countback from long time veteran Ronnie Hebbe with the same score with Neil Jordan's 38 pts good enough for third place. Steve ventured to Toronto during the week and finished runner up there in B Grade with 36 pts on a very wet and sodden course. Dave Ison had the round of the day with a magnificent 43 pts, easily winning C Grade. Lennie Porter continued his recent good form finishing second with 36 pts just ahead of Richie Turnbull with the same score. 18 Branxton golfers returned

from a week's golf on Friday night, enjoying the magnificent golf courses on the Gold Coast. From all reports the trip went beautifully with great weather and no reportable mishaps—except for having to wait for 2½ hours at Brisbane Airport, in the plane, before finally taking off and getting home rather later than expected. Eddie Neale used all his shots to easily win the stableford competition that was arranged for the group. His neatest challenges on the last day all fell apart on the opening holes, making his winning task most enjoyable. Local Club Professional, Marcus, was looking worse for wear in the pro shop after trying to keep up with the Branxton boys—which is not an easy task!

**Hunter Valley Golf Club Sunday 9th April** Nicholas Looby has shot an outstanding 46 point round to win the Weekly Challenge from Wayne Saunders who also had a fine 44 point round

**Monday 10th April** A small field turned out for the usual Tuesday event which was held Monday due to Greens coring closing the course to play Tuesday and Wednesday. A very cool day greeted the players with a strong wind making scoring very tough, Robert Parish from Kurri GC took the win with 34 points from David Peel 32 and Bob Prentice in 3rd spot with 31 points. Balls went to Peter Wilson 29, Garry Marsden 28, Lindsay Self 28, Gary Arnold 28 and Ian Newell 26 on countback.

**Thursday 13th April** The

Vets Ambrose has been won by the team of Wayne Berry, Darrell Preston and John Harrison with 62.4 net from Grahame Sheldon and Kenny Wright with 62.75 on countback. Ball winners were: K Harris/P Durie 62.75, K Springbett/B Chambers 63, S Rawlings/J Pascoe 64.25, M Watson/G Irwin 65, D Peel/K Smith 65.25, J Brown/C Harrison 65.75, J Stewart/G Flynn 66, D Wand/ G Ireland 67.25, G Marsden/P Ireland 67.25, R Talbot/G White 68.5, R Boyd/J Carmody 70, K Dunlop/P Wilson 71.25, E Smith/G Sweetman 71.75, L Clack/L Russell 75.75 and R Dunlop/K Choromaski 75.75. Nearest-the-Pins to Grahame Sheldon (3rd) David Peel (4th) Paul Ireland (10th) and Michael Watson (17th). Next week the vets will play a Medley Stableford  
**Saturday 15th April** Easter Saturday turned on an ideal day for golfers and even with the freshly cored Greens some excellent scores were returned. A Grade went to Dale Macklinshaw with a solid 41 points from Stephen Applebee with 37, B Grade to Paul Bullock with 'round of the day' 43 points from Gavin Knipe with 40 and C Grade to Cade Bradley after he powered home on the back nine to finish on 39 points to win on a countback to Scott Jones. Ball winners were: Gary Morley v38, Kevin Smith 38, Jeff Morton 37, Colin Mills 37, Mick Sullivan 37, Steve Piggot 36, Wade Attewell 36, Wayne Jenkin 36, Bruce Chambers 36, Graeme Flynn 36, Tyson

Smith 35, Lachlan Peacock 35, Phil Gibbs v35, Ken Blackett v35, Dan Wilson 34, Patrick Maher 34, Per Wallen v34 and David Peel 34 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Shannon Attewell (3rd) Kevin Smith (4th) Matt Millar (8th) John Brown (10th) and Shawn Parish (17th). Next week's event will be a Medley Tiger Tee Stableford.

**Sunday 16th April**  
The Weekly Challenge has been won by Shawn Parish with the very good score of 44 points from Scott Conti who carded a solid 40 points.

**Tuesday 18th April** Mark Braddish of the Tamworth GC handled conditions best on Tuesday to record a solid 40 points for the win from Simon Clegg who survived a countback for 2nd from Greg Smith of the Tallebudgera GC after both returned 39 points. Ball winners were: Paul Davies 38, Aaron Hodge v38, Mitchell Butler v38, Gary Arnold 36, John Stewart 35, Braydon Petersen v35, Ben Bradley 35 and David Peel 34. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ray Hodson (3rd & 10th) Bob Prentice (4th) and Ben Bradley (8th & 17th)

**Wednesday 19th April** The Ladies Stroke round went to Jill Slatter with 72 net from Kerry Choromanski 73 and Dianne Oakes 75. Ball winners were: Pam Snaddon 76, Isabel Skeates 76, Melita Watson 77, Dale Hamilton 77 and Mary Fortey 78. Christine Tancred won the putting award. Next week the Ladies will play Stableford.

**Thursday 20th April** Im-

proving Greens conditions saw a closely fought contest in the Vets Medley Stableford with Dave Fury taking the 'chocolates' with 41 points from Wayne Berry on 40 points on a countback to Michael Watson in 3rd. Ball winners were: David Peel 39, Graeme Flynn 38, David Irwin 38, Peter Munro 38, Greg White 37, Rex Talbot 35 and John Stewart 35. Nearest-the-Pins went to Wayne Berry (3rd) David Peel (4th & 8th) Dale Macklinshaw (10th) and Geoff Sweetman (17th). Next week the Vets will play Quota.

**Saturday 22th April** The Tiger Tee challenge proved a tad tough for most with Par being hard to match. A Grade went to Ben Pickering with an even Par 36 points from Mark Harry 35, B Grade to Ray Newton with a very good 38 points from Andrew Ryan 37 while Two ladies fought out C Grade with Christine Boyd returning a staggering 47 points, sure to come under the handicapper's eye and Lorraine Clack runner up with a form lift for 41 points. Ball winners were: Dean Morison 36, John Parish 35, Bruce Chambers 35, Ken Smith 33, Graeme Flynn 33, Andrew McMahon v33, Lachlan Peacock 33, Grahame Sheldon 33, Garry Clarke 33, Michael Booth 33, Julie Van Den Berg 32, David Peel 32, Ken Springbett 32 and Patrick Maher 32 c/b. Nearest-the-Pins went to Ray Newton (3rd) Tim Smith (4th) Michael Tsakissiris (8th) Nick Payne (10th) and Lachlan Peacock (17th). Next week's event will be a Medley Stableford.

other ideas. Pa remembered her mother MILO'S RETURN winning on debut at Maitland and had a gut feeling he could start a KISS ME dynasty. After a few arguments Pa came out on top and mated KISS ME MILO with Sid Swain's stud dog CYRUS THE VIRUS. Her first litter produced a few handy pups which included SNOWY KNOX, DAPH'S DOUGH, KISS ME AIDIE and KISS ME MISSUS winning 20 races between them. Pa raised the bar with her second litter sending her to top sire PRIMO UNO. Pa sold the best two in the litter, UNO BLACKJACK (17 wins) and CAPTAIN MILO (14 wins) but did keep a couple a handy

pups in KISS ME DECLAN and KISS ME MA who won 8 races between them. Litters three and four to BIT CHILLI and VELOCETTE were very unlucky and disappointing with only KISS ME KAHUNA winning a couple of races. Pa still has KISS ME KAHUNA at home, he is such a lovely pet. Peter thought it was now time to give Beth to his lady friend but Pa won the argument once again. Pa put a lot of time and research into checking bloodlines and was positive a final mating to LOCHINVAR MARLOW would produce his most successful litter. Pa's long time mate Bob Campbell had a straw from LOCHINVAR MAR-

LOW so he gave it to Pa, this litter was to put Peter on the map as a trainer. Pa gave one pup to Bob Campbell, Bob named her PRECIOUS LULU and she went on to win 8 races. Peter took four pups and had a lot of success with KISS ME MARLOW who won 19 races and was placed on 37 occasions. The other three in the litter, KISS ME HUGHIE, KISS ME JUNIOR and KISS ME WENCH were very handy winning 22 races between them. When KISS ME WENCH retired from racing Peter sought advice from Pa who suggested he should mate her with SPRING GUN. Peter now has ten magnificent black pups ready to carry on the

KISS ME dynasty.  
**FATHER KNOWS BEST.**  
Members of the GRETA G.B.O.T.A. had a good Easter getting the chocolates with 5 winners. MEDOWIE MAC for Garry Kedwell, SCOTT NO IDEA for Chris Kedwell, MACQUARRIE MIST and CHUNKY BUT FUNKY for James Porter and GRID LOCK for Jenny Barnett.  
G.B.O.T.A. GRETA BRANCH MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT GRETA WORKERS CLUB 7PM.  
11th June, 9th July, 13th August, 10th September, 8th October, 12th

November, 10th December.  
(MARK YA CALENDAR)  
The next meeting will be held at the GRETA WORKERS CLUB at 7pm on Sunday 7th May, the meeting in May has been brought forward due to Mother's Day falling on the 2nd Sunday in May. (WISHING ALL MUMS A VERY HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY)  
VISITORS and NEW MEMBERS welcome. It's your opportunity to see what's going on in the Greyhound industry and voice your opinion as well as having a good social night out with other trainers, owners and breeders away from the track. SAM.

opener Anthony Brunson, skipper Peter "Putty Road" MacKenzie took the bull by the horns to face the new rock. He and opening partner Shayne Franklin put on 36 in a positive start in what were difficult batting conditions with the seaming ball and invariable bounce. Mackenzie was eventually out for 21, and when Franklin followed some time after for 23 this started a major middle order collapse, with the next six batsmen falling for 6 runs or less, with Rob Delforce providing some resistance in the tail with 15. Greta/Branxton managed to bat out their 40 overs to finish 9-86. Early wickets were the key to Greta/Branxton defending the small target, and this was achieved when they had Supporters 3-20 in the 10th over. At drinks the match was very much in the

balance at 6-65. Skipper MacKenzie's bold move of bringing on part time leg-spinner Shayne Franklin who had not bowled a ball all year provided the break through almost immediately, with his fourth consecutive full toss resulting in the Supporters batsman skyng one to Mitch Fallon at mid-off. Mackenzie's regulation first slip catch the following over had Supporters 8 wickets down with still 20 runs required to win, and Greta/Branxton could sniff victory. However the Supporters batsmen remained poised and they reached the target in the 28th over without further loss. Mark Peace was outstanding with the new ball, claiming 3-13 off 10 and probably really should have had 4 wickets when he appeared to have the Supporters opener trapped plumb in front only to have the appeal turned down. Mick Regan took 2-10 off 4, with

Delforce (1-24 off 6), Alex Walkling (1-18 off 6) and Franklin (1-6 off 1) taking a wicket each. Late inclusion Patrick Andrews was outstanding in the field with three catches, Fallon took two catches, with wicket keeper Trent Fuller and Darren Holz taking one each. Unfortunately the second grade grand final hoodoo continued, with Greta/Branxton now having lost the past seven grand finals they have contested since last winning it in 1993-94. The team consisted of:- Peter MacKenzie (c), Shayne Franklin, Mitch Fallon, Darren Holz, Trent Fuller (vc), Nathan Velt, Patrick Andrews, Mick Regan, Rob Delforce, Alex Walkling, Mark Peace, Ben Hogan (12th), Hayden Regan (13th), Anthony Brunson (14th). Fourth grade Blue were the minor premiers but couldn't make it a premiership double as they went down by four

wickets to Paxton at Baddeley 1. Also sent in to bat Greta/Branxton were all out inside 33 overs for 91. Corey Stephenson as he has done all year led the way with 29, with Will Young (26) and Cade Bradley (11) the other batsmen to make impressions. Paxton reached the target in the 33rd over after losing six wickets. Corey Stephenson capped a fine all-round game with 2-36 off 10, as did Will Young with 2-15 off 10. Conner Thomson (1-14 off 7) and Aaron Stephenson (1-12 off 5) were the other wicket takers. The team consisted of:- Steve Daunt (c), Mitch Bird, Stewart Ison, Corey Stephenson, Jason Stephenson, Conner Thomson, Will Young, Cade Bradley, Aaron Stephenson, Damian Andrews, Shaun Daunt.  
*Cheers, Mark*

## Branxton Greta Amateur Swimming Club 2016/2017

From back Page



Junior Dolphins members



Top 12 Point Score Achievers and Grade Champions



# BRANXTON GRETA VINEYARDS

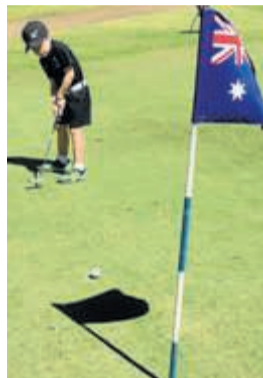
## The New **SPORT**

### Greta's Harry Preece takes third place in Australian Championships



Greta golfer Harrison (Harry) Preece competed at the Australian Age Golf Championships held at Capricorn Golf Club, Yeppoon, QLD on 11th April to 13th April 2017. Harry shot rounds of 40, 43

and 37 for 9 holes to finish third in the 6 years and under age division. He overcame a deficit of 4 shots between himself and third place going into the final day of competition to finish a clear third, 3 shots in



front of fourth. As a result of Harry's great scores, play and conduct throughout the Australian Age Championships, he has been selected to represent Australia in two tournaments in USA, the World Stars of Junior Golf being staged in Las Vegas Nevada 16th to 20th July 2017 and the West Coast AAU Junior Olympics in Temecula California 23rd to 27th July 2017. This is an amazing opportunity and will yield fantastic experience as he progresses further into his golfing career. Harry is a member of Jack Newton Junior Golf's Juniors On the Move program and The Vintage Golf Club's Junior Golf Foundation where he receives tuition from Richard Mercer.

### Branxton Greta Amateur Swimming Club 2016/2017 season results



● Grace Melnik with coach Ben Seamer receiving her coaches award

Branxton Greta Amateur Swimming Club celebrated the end of highly successful season on March 31<sup>st</sup>. In the 2016/17 season, the club grew by almost 50% which was fabulous to see.

Recreation Club, Glencore and Civil Sydney Pty Ltd. Silver sponsors included the Royal Federal Hotel, Baker's Delight Rutherford and Domayne Computers Maitland. Our Bronze

sponsors were Greta McDonald's, Jax Tyres Singleton, CAN Graphic Design, Murrell's Beef Jerky & Butchery, Bimbadgen Wines, Peterson House and Kelman Vineyard. A huge thank you to Glencore for grant funding received to upgrade and purchase new equipment for the club, the NSW Government Office of Sport for allowing greater access to the sport of swimming by providing a uniform subsidy, and the Australian Government Volunteers Grant for the upgrade and purchase of furniture and equipment. Funding from these sources not only assisted the current season, but the upgrade and purchase of new equipment will continue to provide the club with the necessary resources for many, many years to come. A sincere thanks to the above organisations. The impact their support has made on our club has been tremendous! Thank you also to Jim Sheedy for your assistance every club night and event. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you to our coaches Ben Seamer and Scott Schmidt for another successful season and thank you also to the pool staff- Bruce, Glen & Matt as well as Cessnock Council.

**Age Champions:**  
5yr Boys: Jack Crooks, Runner up: Samuel Milne  
5yr Girls: Sabine Donkin  
6yr Boys: Kaleb Fitzgibbon, Runner up: Harry Preece  
6yr Girls: Nelly Flannery, Runner up: Amalia Howells  
7yr Boys: Blake Coyle, Runner up: Ethan Wenham  
7yr Girls: Bridie Richards, Runner up: Annabelle

Hughes  
8yr Boys: Isaac Howells, Runner up: Connor Morgan  
8yr Girls: Ava Hanlon, Runner up: Matilda Wagstaff  
9yr Boys: Charlie Wilton, Runner up: Brody Elderton  
9yr Girls: Maddy Flannery, Runner up: Isabelle Trichlin  
10yr Boys: Jack Barattini, Runner up: Adrian Wenham  
10yr Girls: Keelan Fitzgibbon, Runner up: Grace Melnik  
11yr Boys: Matthew Wenham, Runner up: Izaac Coyle  
11yr Girls: Chloe Nicholson  
12yr Boys: Shay White  
12yr Girls: Hannah Pearce  
13yr Boys: Hayden Coyle  
13yr Girls: Gabrielle Howells, Runner up: Isabelle Barattini  
15yr Girls: Georgina Hughes, Runner up: Lyvia Pozywio  
Top Grade Point Score Achievers: Claire Melnik, Cain White, Brody Elderton, Jackson Trichlin, Kaleb Fitzgibbon, Maddy Flannery, Damien Wagstaff, Blake Coyle, Izaac Coyle, Ethan Wenham, Adrian Wenham & Matthew Wenham.  
Grade Point Score winners:  
B Grade: Matthew Wenham, Runner up: Izaac Coyle  
C Grade: Adrian Wenham, Runner up: Damien Wagstaff  
D Grade: Blake Coyle, Runner up: Maddy Flannery  
E Grade: Jackson Trichlin, Runner up Kaleb Fitzgibbon  
Overall Point Score winner: Blake Coyle  
**Club Awards**  
Club Spirit: Lyvia Pozywio & Hayley Bolam  
Club Leadership: Hannah Pearce  
Coaches Awards: Grace Melnik Samuel Milne Annabelle Hughes Ryan Bolam  
*More Photos page 23*

# A-PLUS

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